

The Czech president, who arrived here on his second

Mr. Havel said that the King has briefed him on the latest developments in the stalled peace process and the efforts that are being exerted to overcome the deadlock.

Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs Jawad Anani told reporters the two

University of Jordan for the achievements he attained in the service of humanity.

Gharaybeh, said the decision to confer the doctorate upon Mr. Havel was because of His Majesty King Hussein and the other to Prince Philip of Great Britain.

being claimed, adding that groups that are committing terrorist acts in the name of Islam are far away from the teachings of the religion.

The president of the University of Jordan, Fawzi Gharaybeh, said the decision to confer the doctorate upon Mr. Havel was because of the distinguished achievements of Mr. Havel both in his country and on the international arena.

Only two such doctorates were conferred by the University of Jordan — one to His Majesty King Hussein and the other to Prince Philip of Great Britain.

The Palestinians consider the students full-fledged settlers occupying Arab land, and Palestinians protesting

The Palestinians have dismissed the arrangement as a farce and said it amounts to sanctioning a new Jewish house, but Israeli police removed them. The two told reporters afterward they wanted to plant the AJ Amoud made it increasingly unlikely for peace talks to resume any time soon.

Najid Rashid, head of the Jordan chapter of the Arab Human Rights Organisation, told reporters before they were forced to evacuate the scene that "our visit was received, he said.

Anas Ghosheh, son of Mr. Ghosheh, told reporters that a team of the International Committee of the Red Cross

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The military wing of Hamas, Izzeddine Al Qassam, claimed responsibility for the attack.

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Committee of the Red Cross

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Officials deny Arafat seriously ill

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI TELEVISION reported Friday that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat suffers from a serious illness and that the search for a successor has begun.

People close to President Arafat denied the report, saying the 68-year-old leader is in good health.

Israel TV's Channel 2, citing Western intelligence sources, said Mr. Arafat's illness affected his muscle control, but not his mental condition. The television rebroadcast segments from an interview with Mr. Arafat conducted last week in which the Palestinian leader's lower lip quivered uncontrollably.

The tremor is only one of the symptoms of the disease, said Channel 2 reporter Yoram Binur. He would not say what illness Mr. Arafat allegedly suffers from.

"Of course at his age [68], he has some medical problems but they are minor,"

Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath told reporters in Cairo.

"Arafat is fine. He has a great stamina and has a set of genes that are fantastic and that make him capable of defying all the odds," Mr. Shaath said in response to an American journalist who asked about unspecified Israeli reports that Mr. Arafat was in poor health.

"He is functioning without any serious problems. It doesn't affect any of his capabilities of leading the Palestinian people," he said on the sidelines of the Arab League ministerial meeting.

"At this age you have all kinds of problems here and there. Personally, I am a little diabetic, I have cholesterol and probably he has things like that," Mr. Shaath said.

"That Israelis are saying that Arafat is seriously ill probably has more to do about their feeling about the peace process than about Arafat," Mr. Shaath said.

"It is part of the campaign against the Palestinian people. They want to say that he is incapable of continuing as part of their will to destroy the peace process," he said.

On Friday morning, Mr. Arafat posed for TV cameras, strolling on a beach. Mr. Binur said, adding that the photo opportunity was arranged to show that Mr. Arafat was healthy. In the footage, Mr. Arafat's face was calm and he strode briskly, surrounded by bodyguards.

Mr. Arafat was in Cairo when Friday evening's report was broadcast.

Mr. Binur said there were four contenders for Mr. Arafat's succession, including his deputy, Mahmoud Abbas. Faisal Hussein, Palestinian Parliament Speaker Ahmad Qureia, and Farouk Kadhumi, a PLO hardliner who remained in exile after Mr. Arafat signed the peace agreements with Israel.

Behind-the-scenes contacts have begun to pick a successor, with the aim of

having a peaceful succession, the TV said.

An emissary from Mr. Arafat's Fateh movement has been sent to Jordan and to Tunisia, the previous PLO headquarters, to discuss the issue, the report said.

Mr. Arafat has never groomed a successor, and a switch in the Palestinian leadership would add to the uncertainties in the peace process, which has been in a deep crisis for months.

Mr. Arafat's West Bank security chief, Jibril Rajoub, dismissed the report as baseless. "Abu Ammar is as healthy as a horse," Mr. Rajoub said, using Mr. Arafat's nom de guerre.

Marwan Barghout, the senior Fateh official in the West Bank, said Mr. Arafat's hands had been shaking as long as he could remember.

"There is no need to choose a successor because Abu Ammar is in good health," Mr. Barghout told the Associated Press.



IRAQI SCHOOLS REOPEN: Primary school children sing the Iraqi national anthem after arriving to the first day of school in Baghdad on Saturday. Some four million pupils will be attending schools this year (Reuters photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli army releases AFP photographer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli army freed early Saturday an Agence France Presse photographer for parallel talks next week in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, but there was little optimism the meetings would thaw the six-month freeze in the peace process.

Earthquake hits western Iran, no damages

TEHRAN (R) — An earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter Scale jolted the western Iranian town of Ardal Saturday, but there were no reports of damage, the official news agency IRNA said. The seismological centre, affiliated with Tehran University, said the quake in Ardal, 420 kilometres south of Tehran, hit at 10:24 a.m. local time. A force four earthquake is strong enough to cause extensive damage in a populated area.

Five killed in Iranian refinery explosion

TEHRAN (AFP) — Five people, including three fire fighters, were killed and 15 others severely injured in an explosion at a refinery in central Iran, a newspaper reported Saturday. The explosion, which led to a fire, occurred Thursday in a pipeline transporting flammable liquid at a unit of the refinery in the city of Arak, Kayhan daily said. Two technicians conducting repairs to the pipeline were blown apart by the blast along with three fire fighters, it added. Fifteen other workers were burned between "60 to 90 per cent."

Europarlament condemns Bahrain 'abuses'

STRASBOURG (AFP) — The European parliament has condemned Bahrain for human rights abuses and called for new democratic elections to be held in the country. The text of a resolution passed by the parliament Thursday condemned "all forms of violence, torture and terrorism" perpetrated by the security forces or by any one else in Bahrain. It also called on the Bahraini authorities to allow international human rights monitors to visit the country, to open talks with opposition groups and to hold democratic elections. Thirty-eight people have died in the periodic unrest which has shaken Bahrain since December 1994 and which is driven by the Shiite opposition.

Israelis, Palestinians head to Washington with few expectations

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AFP) — Palestinians and Israelis prepared Saturday for parallel talks next week in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, but there was little optimism the meetings would thaw the six-month freeze in the peace process.

The Palestinian delegation will leave Monday with the words of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat ringing in their ears.

"Israel is trying to stop the peace process and to release itself from its agreements," Mr. Arafat told the Arab League ministerial conference in Cairo on Saturday.

"Israel wants to completely destroy the peace process," he said (see story

on page 1).

Mr. Arafat was reacting in part to the Israeli government's decision Thursday to let a Jewish settler presence remain in the Arab neighbourhood of Ras Al Amoud in east Jerusalem after settler families occupied a house there on Sept. 14.

Palestinian number two Mahmoud Abbas and chief negotiator Saeb Erekat in Washington hope to use this latest incident to focus Ms. Albright's attention on the right-wing Israeli government's settlement expansion and violations of peace accords.

Mr. Arafat's police kept Palestinian streets mostly quiet after three settler families moved out of the house in the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood on Thursday to be replaced by 10 Jewish religious students who are to guard and renovate the property.

Officials said the Palestinian police clampdown was to ensure U.S. eyes were kept firmly on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's settlement policies and not any violence springing from anti-Israeli demonstrations.

The Israelis will meet with Ms. Albright later in the week, and their top priority is to force the Palestinians to get tough with Islamist groups following the bombings in Jerusalem in the past two months which killed 20 Israelis.

But Mr. Arafat said Saturday that Israel's demands for

Palestinian security cooperation were an excuse not to implement its commitment in peace agreements, including the withdrawal of Israeli troops from West Bank areas.

"The campaign [Israel] has launched against the Palestinian people in the name of security is only a pretext and a lie to stop Israeli army redeployment," Mr. Arafat said.

The Palestinians broke off negotiations in March after Israel began construction on a new settlement project for some 30,000 Jews on the hilltop of Abu Ghneim in Jerusalem in July and September 4 shifted attention toward Israeli demands that the Palestinians smother Islamist groups before the

sides expect in Washington to lay the groundwork for a meeting at the end of September between Mr. Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

The meeting would be the first high-level talks between the sides since July. Since the talks broke down, the Palestinians have insisted that Israel halt settlement expansion, which Mr. Netanyahu has ardently refused.

The Palestinians also hope to get Israel to implement delayed aspects of interim peace agreements, especially the troop withdrawals.

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Saudi foreign minister slams Israel, praises Albright at start of Arab forum

CAIRO (AFP) —

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal Saturday praised U.S. efforts to revive the Arab-Israeli peace process and slammed Israel's policies at the start of an Arab League ministerial conference here.

Saudi Arabia is chairing the two-day conference which was addressed later Saturday by Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat. (See story on page 1)

The meeting addressed the stalemate in the Arab-Israeli peace process as well as a regional economic conference to be held in

Qatar in November, which several Arab states have threatened to boycott because of Israel's attendance.

"We back U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright statements reaffirming international resolutions and her opposition to unilateral acts," in the Middle East, Prince Saud told foreign ministers of the 22-member league.

"All this indicates a good start to put back on track the peace process and we hope that the efforts of the United States will continue," he said.

Prince Saud accused

Israel of pursuing a policy of "repression" against the Palestinian people and said an economic blockade of PNA — ruled territories imposed after two bombings in Jerusalem in recent weeks was "unfair."

"These policies of repression will have dangerous results and are aimed at destroying the peace process in its entirety. Israel will be held responsible for that," he said.

Prince Saud also denounced Israeli air raids on south Lebanon, where Israel occupies a self-declared "security zone" to protect against Lebanese

resistance attacks on its northern border.

"More than ever the Arab countries are urged to give support to our Palestinian and Lebanese brothers," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the Arab community, Prince Saud denounced "all forms of terrorism" and rejected Israeli demands that security be a prerequisite to peace.

"Peace is a strategic option for the Arab countries and there is no going back on that but it demands a similar position on the part of Israel," Prince Saud said.

TV station employees held for dealing with Israel

BEIRUT (R) — Two employees of a Christian television station based in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon who were arrested by the Lebanese army are being held for allegedly dealing with Israel, security sources said Saturday.

On Friday, the U.S. owners of the station, Middle East Television (METV), said the two — journalist Shaker Agha and electrical engineer Butros Khoury — were stopped at an army checkpoint in the south, questioned, blindfolded and taken to a ministry of defence prison in east Beirut.

The security sources said the men are under investigation for dealing with Israel, which is prohibited in Lebanon. They declined to elaborate on the case.

METV is owned by the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) of Virginia Beach, Virginia. It transmits from Marjayoun, which is also the headquarters of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) and lies in an area outside Lebanese government control.

CBN said Friday that neither of the men had ever done anything against the Lebanese government.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Little Rosey
14:30 The Magic School Bus
15:00 Energy Express
15:40 Lucky Luke
16:00 American Chart Show
17:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
20:30 National Geographic
21:10 Renaissance
22:00 News in English
22:30 One West Walkie
23:15 Sisters
23:59 End of T.V.

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr
05:18 (Sunrise) Duha
11:29 Dhuhr
14:57 Asr
17:39 Maghreb
18:57 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

International Church Tel.
5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology

Moderate weather conditions will
prevail during the day becoming
cool at night and winds northwest-
erly moderate to active. In Aqaba,
it will be relatively warm and
occasionally dusty, winds north-
erly moderate to active and seas
calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman. 17/28

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Mazahreh. 820425
Dr. Wissam Hazyayin. 748563
Dr. Munther Al Khatib. 839868
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyib. 620115
Firas pharmacy. 661912
Ferdows pharmacy. 778336
Al Asema pharmacy. 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy. 623672
Al Salam pharmacy. 636730
Yacoub pharmacy. 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy. 637660
Najib pharmacy. 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi T'ameh. 250080
Al Quds pharmacy. (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ziyad Jhalat. 992991
Khalifeh pharmacy. 985417

EMERGENCIES

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre. 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity. 642381/6
Akileh Maternity. 642441/2

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre. 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity. 642381/6
Akileh Maternity. 642441/2

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL

Other Flights

Other Flights

Other Flights

Other Flights

Other Flights

Queen Noor, Havlova visit performing arts centre, Al Amal medical centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor and the wife of the Czech president Dagmar Havlova Saturday visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) Performing Arts Centre, which houses the foundation's projects in theatre, dance, and a training centre for arts in education, a press release announced Saturday.

Mrs. Havlova, a graduate of the Janacek Academy of Performing Arts, is a popular and acclaimed Czech theatrical, television, and movie actress, the statement continued.

The NHF's holistic approach to children's development addresses not only children's health and welfare, but also their cultural and educational needs. At the performing arts centre, the "Theatre-in-Education Programme" is designed to enhance children's learning experiences through drama and theatre, the announcement read.

The programme encourages creative self-expression, confidence, social cooperation, and physical coordination. It also includes special training courses to help primary school teachers introduce "Drama in Education" to their schools. The Centre's performers have participated in national and international theatre festivals and have received several awards for outstanding performances, the press release added.

The Theatre in Education Programme, in cooperation with the NHF's Population Programme for the Grassroots, also produces interactive plays, whereby the actors engage men and women of rural communities in discussions that raise awareness of family planning concepts, health, and social issues, the statement continued.

According to centre Director Lina Tal Batayneh, one of the centre's major programmes is the Creative

Conflict Resolution Skills Project (Kanafeesh), which is a multi-media national programme including theatre performances, educational printed material for teachers, workshops, and TV programmes for children that promote non-violence, tolerance, and environmental and cross-cultural awareness, the announcement said.

"Kanafeesh" will be implemented through the NHF's diverse educational and training programmes, in all its comprehensive development projects, and in schools located throughout the Kingdom, the press release continued.

Later, Queen Noor and Mrs. Havlova toured Al Amal Centre, Jordan's first comprehensive centre specialised in early detection, treatment, and rehabilitation of cancer patients from the country and the (Arab) region. The centre comprises an inpatient 120-bed hospital, five operating theatres, a

women's centre for the early detection of breast cancer, a stop-smoking clinic, a healthy diet and weight control clinic, and an out-patient chemotherapy clinic, as well as a paediatrics and a palliative care division, the statement said.

Its services include public awareness, health education, early detection, diagnosis treatment including nuclear medicine, a bone marrow transplantation unit, and a psychological rehabilitation department. Al Amal Centre is affiliated with St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in the United States, the South West Cancer Centre in Holland, and the National Cancer Centre in Egypt, the statement said. Her Royal Highness Princess Ghaida Talal accompanied Queen Noor and Mrs. Havlova on their visit, the statement concluded.

Majali calls for Israel to honour accords in talk with visiting justice

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday underlined the need for Israel to implement all the accords it has signed during the Middle East peace process, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Speaking with visiting President of the Israeli Higher Court of Justice Meir Shamgar, Dr. Majali said the implementation of the accords is necessary for the concerned parties to overcome the obstacles facing the peace process, which will allow Arabs and Israelis to reach a just and comprehensive settlement and enable the followers of the monotheistic religions to live in peace and security.

He said the Palestinians are currently facing increased suffering as a result of Israel's closure of the Palestinian territories, and called on the Israelis to lift the closure so that the Palestinians can resume their normal life.

Dr. Majali and Mr. Shamgar reviewed the latest developments in the peace process and the threats it faces because of the suspension of the Arab-Israeli negotiations in general, and the Palestinian-Israeli talks



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday discusses the obstacles currently facing the peace process with the President of Israel's Supreme Court Meir Shamgar. Dr. Majali called on Israel to implement the accords it has signed (Petra photo)

in particular. Mr. Shamgar said the Hashemite leadership of Jordan enjoys the respect of the Israeli people, who appreciate His Majesty King Hussein's role in the peace process.

A comprehensive and just peace was necessary for the region so that future generations could enjoy security and stability, he added.

Expressing his delight on visiting Jordan, Mr. Shamgar said the visit will allow him and his delegation to meet Jordanian officials and exchange views on issues pertaining to the peace process.

Zaki Kamal, deputy president of the Israeli Bar Association, reviewed the

association's activities and the general status of the association's Arab members.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani, Mr. Kamal, and a number of Israeli Supreme Court judges.

Jordanian, Egyptian national electricity grids to be linked by December — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt have almost completed the project of linking their national electric grids, which is expected to be completed in December of this year, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Horani announced Saturday.

Speaking to reporters before his departure for Cairo, where he is scheduled to take part in a meeting of Arab ministers of energy and electricity, Dr. Horani said one of the main topics on the agenda is

the connection of the Arab states' electric grids, an endeavour started by Jordan and Egypt that will extend to Syria, Iraq, and Turkey.

He said the linkage between Syria and Jordan is expected to be completed by mid-1998, adding that work is underway for linking Egypt with Libya and Tunisia, and connecting the grids of Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco — all Arab states in North Africa.

According to the Ministry of Energy, the linkage between Iraq and Syria will

take place in 1998, and between Iraq and Turkey in the year 2002.

The regional project is being financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

According to Dr. Horani, who will meet separately on the sidelines of the conference with the other ministers of energy, the Cairo conference will cover the exchange of expertise and training of personnel in electricity-related fields.

Six arrested on burglary, forgery charges

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police Saturday announced the arrest of six people over the weekend who allegedly committed several unrelated burglaries and trafficked forged currency in different suburbs of Amman.

The first case involved a 35-year-old suspect who allegedly opened fire at a Marka resident after a failed robbery attempt, according to a report released by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The suspect was seen breaking into a house by a Marka resident, who attempted to stop him.

"The suspect pulled a gun and started shooting in his direction, then fled the scene," the report said, adding that the eyewitness escaped with no injuries.

Police cordoned off the neighbourhood and were able to recover the weapon used in the attack and apprehend the suspect, who reportedly confessed to attempting to burglarise the house.

In Sweileh, police said they arrested a man in the act of trafficking a forged \$100 bill, the report said.

The report added that the man had sold forged currency to a woman and that all the duplicates were retrieved by authorities. No further details were available.

In the Biader area, police said they arrested a man who allegedly pick-pocketed several people at the bus station.

The report said that police received several complaints from citizens that they were being robbed at the Wadi Seir bus station, and while monitoring the area they arrested a man attempting to pick-pocket a bus passenger's wallet.

In Marj Hamam, police apprehended three people who allegedly burglarised several tyre and car parts warehouses, according to the report.

The report said the group, all non-Jordanian, were arrested after being monitored by undercover police agents, and were caught by police while attempting to rob a warehouse.

Cabinet approves national health strategy during regular session

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday discussed and approved a national health and medical care strategy to be implemented in Jordan within several years, and expressed deep satisfaction with the Ministry of Health's efforts in preparing the strategy.

Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi spoke after the regular session, in which Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi presented an outline of this strategy.

The strategy entails giving

due attention to primary health care, improving the performance of the medical staff in health centres and hospitals, and boosting cooperation between public and private sector medical centres in the application of a national health insurance scheme, according to Dr. Mutawi.

The strategy, which is divided into four three-year segments, takes into consideration closer cooperation with the private sector's health services, he said.

The Cabinet approved a

programme for rescheduling Jordan's debt to Sweden, totalling \$1,150,354, to be paid between June 1997 and February 1999.

The Cabinet also approved a protocol on agricultural cooperation between Jordan and Sudan and endorsed the minutes of the Jordanian-Sudanese Higher Committee meetings, which cover cooperation in trade, industry, higher education, scientific research, health, social security, and administrative reform.

The Cabinet also

endorsed the minutes of the Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Joint Committee meetings, which cover cooperation in culture, tourism information, vocational training, agriculture, standards and specifications, awqaf and Islamic affairs, and employment.

The Cabinet formed a delegation to take part in meetings in Egypt next month to discuss Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in offering credit to farmers for agricultural projects.

Meeting considers long-distance methods of reaching uneducated

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Educating the 10 million children in the world who remain without access to education was considered to be the most challenging issue discussed at a two-day meeting of the Task Force Team on Distance Education in Amman.

"We need to find ways to reach [these] uneducated children through distance education," stressed Regional Educational Advisor at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Frank Dall. Eight experts from Sudan, Turkey, Oman, Yemen, Algeria, Morocco, the BBC in Afghanistan, and Radio Netherlands attended this UNICEF-organised meeting and gave case studies of what was currently being done in distance education.

According to the exchange of information at this meeting, distance education makes use of media and can be delivered and used by learners when and where it is needed.

This means that the system can offer a flexible and economic alternative to conventional schooling, particularly in developing countries with limited resources.

Rashida Abdul Mutalib, director of the Sudan Open Learning Unit, incorporated distance education by the use of audio cassettes for refugees in Sudan. She told

the Jordan Times that this type of education is used at all educational levels and also offers basic education for adults.

"Distance education is useful for women, who are targeted in our post-literacy programmes and primary health campaigns. We feel that most of our women are uneducated and need to have these messages put across to them through audio facilities and radio," she explained.

In Afghanistan distance education is through a BBC production "New Home, New Life." This soap opera combines many themes related to Afghanistan, said John Butt, project manager and editor.

He told the Jordan Times that the 20-year war in Afghanistan has destroyed the educational and health systems.

"Through our production we are trying to educate people in life skills in matters that are a question of life and death in Afghanistan," he said.

These issues include avoiding mines, vaccinating children and keeping them healthy, and avoiding conflict and drugs, he explained.

When asked about the feasibility of owning radios in such a situation, Mr. Butt, who has been working in Afghanistan for the past four years, said "there is very little electricity in Afghanistan and people can no longer

afford to buy radio batteries. We know that people want to listen to the radio, but just don't have the money."

Radio can be useful in complementing the existing educational system or can target specific themes, he added.

"In some countries, girls' education is a problem and radio is used to highlight the significance of their education in raising the quality of life for both women and children," he explained.

Recommendations set the Terms of Reference for the Task Force and a provisional plan of action for 1998 and 1999. It was agreed that governments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) needed to be mobilised in implementing distance education through multi-channel learning.

Participants also felt that there was a need for a survey on potential and existing projects in distance education. This idea was reinforced by another recommendation for networking among countries of the region to include a Web site project.

These experts are to conceptualise a regional proposal for multi-channel learning that could be funded by the World Bank and the European Union.

The meeting, which ended Thursday, was sponsored by UNICEF.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

* The Heritage House is exhibiting 96 pieces of old rugs and kilims representing original flatweaving work of various bedouin tribes and Kurdish communities in Turkey and the Arab World. Twenty-one additional pieces come from Nomad Belushi, Persian, and Afghan origins, until Sept. 21 at Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel/Jabal Amman (9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.).

Fateh Moudarres at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 5537598). * Exhibition of photographs about the life of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman until Sept. 23.

* Works by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arab Madinas in Batik" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (AJ Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 644555). * Painting exhibition

entitled "La Radioactivite" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30. * Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL

* "The Three Unknown Heroes" (karate film with subtitles in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.



Chelsea Clinton reacts as she walks across Stanford University in Palo Alto with her parents, first lady Hillary Clinton and President Bill Clinton on Chelsea's first day at college. The Clintons escorted their daughter to Stanford where she will begin classes Monday (Reuter photo)

Clintons get caught in a media storm

PALO ALTO, California (R) — After years of sheltering daughter Chelsea, President Bill Clinton and his family were caught in a storm of media interest Friday as the first daughter became the "first freshman."

Some 100 reporters, photographers and television crews signed up with Stanford University for press credentials to cover the first day of 17-year-old Chelsea's college adventure. In addition, 60 members of the national media flew out to California from Washington on board a chartered airplane for the big day.

The journalists knew what they were covering. It was hardly a momentous development in the history of the world — but it qualified as a human interest event that

brought out competitive juices nonetheless. Mr. Clinton, his wife Hillary and Chelsea essentially tried to keep out of the public spotlight for most of the day — even as correspondents for local and national television networks periodically were doing live shots from the 8,000-acre (3,200 hectares) campus of Stanford University.

Blowing the media interest for a photo-opportunity — particularly before early evening television news programmes on the east coast — the three Clintons strolled casually outside the adobe-coloured Meyer Library, smiling and waving.

More than 100 journalists — most of them photographers or television camera crews — nudged, shoved and jostled their way into position to capture the mo-

ment when the two proud parents and their beaming child looked unsure of what to do.

One reporter shouted a question to Chelsea, asking what her first day was like. She shrugged her shoulders and threw up her hands. "hi," was all she said in response.

A similar question was tossed at her father, who like his daughter offered a shrug and gesture with his hands that said nothing. And the press corps captured it all.

The president and his wife have devoted themselves to keeping their daughter out of the public eye as much as possible — first when they lived at the governor's mansion in Arkansas and later during their stay in the White House.

This time, however, they

acknowledged that public interest could not be denied. People magazine was preparing a piece on Chelsea's step into higher education. The CBS Television Network was promoting its Evening News programme ahead of time by telling viewers to be sure to watch its coverage of "the first freshman."

"I think they realise that there is a lot of interest now," said Ann Stock, until recently the White House social secretary. "I know they are hoping it will defuse quickly ... so Chelsea can be just a student."

Mrs. Clinton came to California urging the press to let Chelsea get on with her studies. "That's how I hope it will be for Chelsea as she embarks on her college years," she said in her weekly column.

U.N. evacuates aid workers from northern Afghan city

ISLAMABAD (R) — The United Nations Saturday evacuated nine exhausted aid workers who had been trapped by fighting around the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

U.N. officials said a U.N. plane carrying nine evacuees had landed in the Pakistani capital Islamabad and would bring out a similar number later in the day.

The 18 evacuees, mostly staffers of various U.N. agencies, were flown from Mazar-e-Sharif to the town of Shiberghan, 125 kilometres to the west, Friday in an Afghan military helicopter supplied by General Abdul Malik, chief of an ethnic Uzbek opposition faction.

The U.N. plane flew to Shiberghan to pick up the first batch of evacuees, one U.N. official said. It was due to collect the second group from the Uzbek bor-

der town of Termez, where they had flown from Shiberghan earlier.

About 30 staffers of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other private relief agencies are still in Mazar-e-Sharif, hoping to get out by road, officials said.

Security in Mazar-e-Sharif deteriorated rapidly when the Taliban militia began advancing towards the city two weeks ago. Opposition factions began fighting among themselves as looters rampaged through the town.

The Taliban were driven back from the city's outskirts and its airport last week, but recovered to capture Hairatan on the Uzbekistan border, 50 kilometres to the north Wednesday.

"U.N. agencies are being

compelled to temporarily withdraw aid workers from Mazar-e-Sharif because their offices have been so severely looted that they can no longer function," a U.N. statement said Tuesday, before the evacuation was arranged. The World Food Programme (WFP) lost 735 tonnes of food aid, while the Food and Agriculture Organisation was robbed of 800 tonnes of fertiliser, as well as hundreds of tonnes of seed and agrochemicals. Looters took large quantities of drugs and medical supplies from the World Health Organisation.

A U.N. aid coordinating agency lost construction tools and a jet fuel tanker and U.N. offices were comprehensively looted.

"Thousands, if not millions, of dollars worth of computers, walkie-talkie radios, fixed radio systems,

air conditioners, satellite telephones, cameras and furniture have disappeared, along with dozens of vehicles," the U.N. statement said.

"This is the second time this year that our Mazar premises have been robbed in this way in clear violation of U.N. immunities," said Broniek Szymski, WFP regional director.

"It is a real tragedy to see that events like this keep hindering our efforts to help the hundreds of thousands of people who depend on international assistance here," he said.

"The patience and generosity of donors have been stretched to the limit and many are now asking themselves about the wisdom of providing aid in such circumstances," Mr. Szymski added.

Four crewmen die in Montana crash of B-1 bomber

WASHINGTON (R) — An air force B-1 bomber crashed in Montana Friday, killing all four crew members aboard and bringing to six the number of U.S. military air crashes in a week.

The B-1B was on a training mission out of Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and went down between 4:10 p.m. and 5:10 p.m. (2010-2110 GMT) near Alzada, Montana, a Pentagon spokesman said. It carried no weapons.

"All four crew members were killed and their bodies have been recovered," he said.

An official at nearby Carter County Sheriff's Department said the terrain where the plane crashed was fairly flat and open.

The official, who declined to give his name, reported that the weather in southeast Montana was clear and sunny Friday, and the temperature was in the 50s Fahrenheit.

An air force team was on the scene and had begun an investigation, the Pentagon spokesman said.

President Bill Clinton expressed his deep condolences to the families of the airmen killed and said he continued to have "the highest confidence" in the air force and all U.S. military services.

"The secretary of defence has assured the president that the Department of Defence will take all appropriate actions to investigate the cause of the accident and ensure the safety of all our military air crews," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters travelling with Mr. Clinton in California, where he escorted daughter Chelsea to begin her first year at Stanford University.

The crash came just hours after the air force announced it would halt all training flights for 24 hours on Sept. 26 on orders from Defence Secretary William Cohen for

service branches to study safety after the recent rash of accidents.

But the B-1 accident prompted Gen. Richard Hawley, the head of the Air Force's Air Combat Command, to move up suspension of operations by four days.

"On Monday, we will stop flying training and exercise missions and focus intently on what we do and how we do it," he said in a statement. "We need to determine why these incidents happen and how to prevent any more mishaps."

Mr. Cohen this week ordered each military service to "stand-down" training flights for 24 hours at some time during a week-long period beginning Friday.

The navy and Marine Corps have said they will leave it up to individual flight units on when to hold their own 24-hour training halts.

The previous five accidents included the apparent collision of an air force C-

141 cargo jet and a German plane off the coast of Africa, the mid-air break up of an F-117A Stealth fighter at an air show near Baltimore and the collision of two air force F-16s off the New Jersey coast. A Marine Corps F/A-18 also crashed in North Carolina and a navy F/A-18 went down in Oman.

Mr. Cohen and military officials have stressed that the overall flying safety record of the U.S. military this year is very similar to that of last year, which was the best on record.

The swing-wing B-1 "Lancer," designed originally to carry nuclear bombs to the heart of Soviet territory in a world war, was first delivered to the air force by Rockwell International Corp. in 1985.

The last plane was delivered in 1988 and the fleet is in the process of being modified to carry a wide range of smart conventional weapons, including cruise missiles.

In deepening trouble, Gore hires 2 private lawyers

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Vice-President Al Gore has hired two private attorneys to defend him against mushrooming money-raising allegations that could lead to the appointment of an independent counsel.

The vice-president's office said Mr. Gore had hired lawyer Jim Neal of Nashville, Tennessee, a long-time family friend and adviser, and George Framp-ton, a Washington-based attorney and former assistant secretary of the Interior Department who has worked with Mr. Gore in the past on environmental issues.

Their job is to extract Mr. Gore from a deepening pool of trouble that, if it drags on,

could jeopardise his bid to succeed President Bill Clinton in the 2000 presidential election.

"It's the vice president's position that he's done nothing wrong and his private attorneys will represent his position to the Justice Department," said Gore spokeswoman Ginny Terzano.

She pointed out that Mr. Gore's White House counsel, Charles Burson, can only represent him on official matters.

The development came as the Justice Department considers whether to appoint an independent counsel to investigate allegations against Mr. Gore related to Democratic fund-raising from last

year's presidential campaign.

Attorney General Janet Reno early this month ordered a 30-day review of Mr. Gore's activities to see if there were enough specific, credible allegations of wrongdoing to justify a formal, 90-day preliminary investigation to determine if an independent counsel should be appointed.

It is generally assumed at the White House that Ms. Reno will order the 90-day review. White House officials said Mr. Gore was acting with that in mind.

The White House has admitted that Mr. Gore made 86 phone calls to Democratic donors soliciting cam-

paign funds, but denies any wrongdoing. A federal law forbids fund-raising on federal property, but the White House says Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore are exempt.

In addition, Mr. Gore originally argued he raised only "soft money" contributions from the calls — large, unregulated donations given just to the party rather than individual candidates.

But recently it became clear that some of the money was deposited into a Democratic National Committee account for individual candidates, which meant the donors may have gone over the federal limit of \$1,000 in contributions to an individual candidate.

Venezuelan party opens for beauty queen candidate

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela's second largest political party, desperate for power after 13 years out of government, paved the way Friday for a possible presidential bid by former Miss Universe Irene Saez.

Members of social Christian party Copei, which has not won a presidential election since 1978, voted to throw open internal elections to independents in the search for a winning candidate in December 1998 pre-

sidential polls.

"If I'm certain of anything it's that the party has to win the next elections. Thirteen years is a long time in opposition," Luis Herrera Campins, Copei's last successful presidential candidate and a strong supporter of Ms. Saez told delegates.

Ms. Saez, the independent mayor of Caracas' Chacao district and Venezuela's most popular politician, was not present at the three-day convention, but her pres-

ence was felt through a massive display of propaganda and souvenirs bearing her image and name.

Long lines of delegates queued to be photographed next to a life-size cardboard figure of Ms. Saez and her hallmark blonde mane adorned T-shirts, mugs, posters for sale on the fringes of the meeting.

Ms. Saez, 35, has said she will decide whether to run for president next year. An opinion poll published Fri-

day showed she holds a commanding 20 point lead over her closest rivals. The current president, Rafael Caldera, is constitutionally barred from standing again.

But some of Copei's other presidential hopefuls mocked her chances of converting early support into success at next year's elections.

"All that glitters is not gold," commented Humberto Calderon Berti as he passed a fairground machine full of dolls modelled after Ms. Saez.

Drivers released after six die in British train crash

LONDON (R) — Police have questioned and released the driver of an express train which slammed into a freight train Friday, killing six people and injuring more than 150 in Britain's worst crash for almost a decade.

"He has not been charged with anything," a Transport Police spokesman said.

"The driver of the freight train was spoken to earlier but he is not being questioned any further. He is not under suspicion," the spokesman said.

Six people were detained in hospital overnight and 150 others were described as "walking wounded."

"It was like a bomb had gone off," one shocked witness said after the express packed with almost 500 passengers crashed into the freight train Friday afternoon in the western suburbs of London with horrific force.

Carriages were up-ended and torn open by the brutal force of the impact. "It is a scene of carnage and twisted metal," an ambulance man said as he laboured in eerie silence with police through the mangled wreckage.

They took several hours to free the bodies from one carriage pinned beneath the upturned freight wagon. The search for clues went on into the night.

It was the worst train crash in Britain since a triple pile-up outside London in 1988 killed 35 people, back in the days when Britain's railways were a single state-owned network.

Under the break-up and privatisation railways, the rail lines are now owned by Railtrack. The express train was run by Great Western Trains Co. Ltd, which is about 51 per cent owned by staff, with the remaining stake split between Venture Capital Group 31 Group PLC and Firstbus.

"Clearly there has been a major fault somewhere. It's conceivable there was a technical failure and it's conceivable there was human error," said Railtrack Chief Executive John Edmonds.

But he insisted: "The line has equipment that is fully up to date and there is no question of a low standard of maintenance."

"It's terrible, horrific," Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said after visiting the scene of devastation. He refused to speculate on the cause of the crash "until all the evidence is available."

Queen Elizabeth joined Prime Minister Tony Blair in sympathising with the victims and paying tribute to rescue workers. A public inquiry is being held into the crash.

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'New Russians' soak up sun, enjoy Miami's relative safety

By Ursula Hyzy
Agence France-Presse

MIAMI BEACH, Florida — Russia's new rich are flooding into Florida, looking for a place to forget winter and safely invest their substantial fortunes.

"This is paradise, especially in winter. Over there are murders, organised crime and financial instability," says Isaac Feldman, head of the Era All Nations Real Estate Agency where eight of the 16 employees speak Russian.

The current wave of immigration began three years ago, but it isn't the first. Miami has had a Russian Orthodox Church since 1947.

Coming from Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and elsewhere, the newest arrivals are flooding into the north beach high rises.

Successful businessmen and stars from the ex-Sovi-

et Union like singer Alla Pugacheva have bought luxurious oceanfront condominiums.

Shops sell Russian food and even a Russian-language manicure shop is flourishing in this neighbourhood, already dubbed Little Moscow.

Visitors are treated with open mistrust. A woman in Moscow Video who begins to tell of her arrival here two years ago is brusquely shushed by her husband.

"We are here to swim, that's all," he says, tanned and bristling with the trophies of wealth.

"It (the distrust) is a Russian trait, from what they've known during the Soviet era and there is also a little fear of the mafia and people finding out about their business," says Inna Shapovalova, an immigration lawyer who says that fully half of her clients are from the former Soviet Union.

More than 1,000 residents

of the former Soviet Union obtain permanent resident status in Florida annually.

Most seem to split their time between Moscow and Miami, where wives and children live.

"Things are more peaceful here. You know what I mean," says Moscow Video owner Frida Nosikovskaya, alluding to Moscow's reputation for murder and kidnapping.

But however nervous the new arrivals, they arouse distrust in Miami, where newspapers are filled with stories about the "Russian mafia".

"We believe there is a Russian organised crime presence now," says FBI spokeswoman Ann Figueiras, who declines to give details.

But Miami police spokeswoman Angel Calzadilla tells a different story. "We have not recorded any incidents with Russians in recent history," she said.

Banks consistently refuse to lend to the former Soviet citizens, who are also having a progressively harder time getting visas, said Mr. Feldman.

What Mr. Feldman sees in Miami is a clash between risk-taking wealthy Russians and U.S. senior citizens who spent years saving for a peaceful retirement.

But not all the Russians here are wealthy. Some are taxi drivers and cooks trying to survive like any other new immigrants.

A case in point is Raisa, a former teacher of Russian and Spanish at the University of Odessa in the Ukraine, who is now a waitress at the La Luna cabaret.

And she isn't sure if she will stay, saying it was only "the errors of life, of politics" that brought her to Florida and, "well, here I am."

Norwegians have it good but without luxury

By Tanya Pang
Reuters

OSLO — Ask a Norwegian if his pockets are bulging with money from the country's vast oil resources and he'll raise his eyebrows, chuckle, and say that's an outsider's view.

Ask a Norwegian if she enjoys a comfortable standard of living, and she'll say things could be very much worse.

For despite Norway's unquestionable wealth, its citizens dismiss the notion that this money has made their lives so much better than in other countries.

"I think more people have a tolerable living standard in Norway than in many other countries, but that is mainly because a lot of women are working," said Siri Hansen, a 45-year-old teacher from Oslo.

"It's not hard to make ends meet but I don't have a lot of money left at the end of the month."

The least populated of the Scandinavian countries with 4.37 million people, it pumps around 3.2 million barrels per day of oil from the north sea and surrounding areas, making it the world's second largest crude exporter after Saudi Arabia.

Black gold has bolstered state coffers, the national budget surplus for 1997 is expected to amount to almost 60 billion crowns (\$8 billion), while the current account will top 80 billion crowns.

But Norwegians say foreign perceptions that they are basking in North Sea profits are misplaced.

"When we go abroad we appear to be rich because we can buy more for our money because prices are lower. Therefore people perceive us as rich," Svein Longva, director general of the Central Bureau Statistics Norway (SSB), told Reuters.

"We cannot afford to buy the same sort of things at home."

According to SSB figures the average Norwegian household of 2.2 people has a gross income of about 240,000 crowns a year.

High tax a myth

Average income tax at

about 23 per cent is just below the European average.

But looking at overall taxes, including indirect taxes and pension payments, Norway is around the European average, between Italy and Hungary, SSB figures for 1995 show.

"Generally the average nominal wage is higher and tax is average or just below Europe, so the average Norwegian has more disposable income than our European counterparts," Mr. Longva said.

"In nominal terms we spend more, but prices are higher as well and in real terms this spending is only very slightly above the European average."

According to Eurostat, the statistics office of the European Union in Luxembourg, Norwegian private consumption was around six per cent higher per person in volume terms in 1994 than the 15 country EU average.

Most of the extra expenditure went on property, transport, fuel and power, household appliances and recreation. Mr. Longva attributed this to tradition, geography and requirement.

Traditionally Norwegians buy their own property, which are mostly semi-detached or detached housing, except in the largest cities, the tax system is geared to encourage buying.

Fuel consumption is high partly due to heating during the long, cold winters that stretch from November to march and also because of the often vast distances between communities.

"In general we travel a lot because of the geography of the country and also a lot of people own summer cottages or mountain cabins and travel to use these at the weekends," Mr. Longva said.

Working women boost average household income

In 1994 Norwegians spent 115 per cent more than the EU average on household appliances such as freezer and dishwashers, mainly because of the high proportion of women working, either part-time or full-time, Mr.

Longva said.

"Norwegian women combine an active working life with a family life, which is a difference between what you see in many other countries where you have to choose," he said.

"We have a very high rate of participation of women in the labour market and that has meant a lot to daily life and families."

Women working has boosted the average household income, but with day-to-day living expenses generally among the highest in Europe, it's not champagne and caviar for many Norwegians.

Eurostat figures for 1994 show that most foodstuffs in Norway are, in general, 39 per cent higher than in the EU 15 states and second only in price to Switzerland.

Bread, for example, will cost 35 percent more than the average, meat 44 per cent, dairy goods 47 per cent, fresh fruit 40 per cent and fresh vegetables 101 per cent.

A stiff tax on alcohol has sent prices around 125 per cent above the EU average and tobacco is 101 per cent higher.

Bente Olsen, 34, who lives in Skarnes about 70 km northeast of Oslo where she works in a delicatessen, is a typical working Norwegian woman.

"We could live without (me working) but we would have to be very careful," Ms. Olsen said. "I choose to work because it is always good to have a little extra money."

Ms. Olsen and her husband Ole Peter, 36, an electrician, bring home around 22,000 crowns a month net, including a 2,900 crown state allowance for their three children.

"I think we have it pretty good here, but I think it is tougher in the cities," she said.

Oil money increases frustrations

In a country which prides itself on one of the world's best cradle-to-grave welfare systems, public frustration has been fuelled by headlines over long queues for hospital treatment and a shortage of doctors and equipment.

What makes a good school?

By Richard Tanner

TO FIND out whether one is a good headteacher or principal, what better way than ask him or her?

I did just that, interviewing four experienced headteachers about the six things they thought made a good school. All four emphasised the need for clear purpose, shared by teachers, students and parents.

Hana Nasser Malhas, director general of Al Mashrek School, said that administration "has the power to convince the school community of its vision and to make it happen."

Samia Al Farra, of the Baccalaureate School, wanted to ensure that "what is said is what is done." Almost as vital to do that delivery are the teachers.

Nigel Melen, headmaster of the New English School, valued above all the "security, loyalty and calibre of the staff," while Ms. Malhas said that not only do teachers "need to have appropriate qualifications and skills, they need real character," adding that "teacher recruitment is the most difficult thing."

Ms. Farra was clear: "Good teachers are the key to a good school", for without their ability to enthuse youngsters, good quality learning cannot occur.

Haifa Najjar, general director of Ahliyyah School for Girls, advocated "a community of learners," while Ms. Malhas felt that "students are the core of the whole thing."

All four principals sought partnership and teamwork within their schools: "Everyone learns to be a leader," said Ms. Najjar. "A sense of partnership amongst students, teach-

ers and parents" should prevail, added Mr. Melen.

Schools should "adapt to youngsters' needs, giving experiences that enrich," said Ms. Farra, while Mr. Melen said: "Listen to what students say."

Mr. Najjar would want everyone at Ahliyyah to be a "chooser," choosing, like her, to be there, "thinking and asking questions and having fun."

Two teachers mentioned the planned curriculum, "brought alive by teachers" (Ms. Farra) and able to "serve the weakest student and challenge the most brilliant" (Mr. Melen).

Though accepting a measure of routine, Ms. Najjar argued that "as we cannot stand still, we must risk the new, we must support risk-takers." Except for Mr. Melen who said it is important to have "adequate and appropriate facilities to deliver the curriculum", material resources were seen as less important by the others.

Ms. Farra was certain that "the process is more important than the assets," while not ignoring "solid finance." Ms. Najjar felt that "money is only important if there is the vision to use it well." Ms. Malhas said that "anyone can have desks and equipment, but it is special to have quality human resources."

Interesting quotes included: "Kids do not fail, schools fail kids" (Ms. Farra); let everyone be challenged by "the daily search for excellence" (Ms. Najjar); "let us absorb the best features of all the cultures feeding our schools" (Mr. Melen).

Clearly headmasters should know what

makes a good school: after all, they must have been experienced teachers, good in classroom, well organised and able to motivate others or they wouldn't have been promoted. They read, visit and discuss education philosophies and how to deliver them, and are able to articulate their ideas.

But aren't the four I talked to producing "islands of excellence," supported by their wealthy clientele? "Yes, but..." summed up their replies.

Mr. Melen felt superior facilities of schools like the N.E.S. separated them from most government schools. Ms. Farra admitted that "ABS, though not a monastery, probably needs to do more."

All mentioned community service as a good thing. Ms. Malhas feeling "passionately about the Crown Prince Award," and embarrassment about "ski-trips to Europe while fellow Jordanians are starving." Ms. Najjar dreamt of "serving the community: family and homes, workplace and country, Arab World and the whole world."

As well as encouraging their students to become good citizens, these schools want to improve education in Jordan as a whole. Ms. Malhas and Mr. Melen wanted to "share ideas, particularly on the professional development of teachers," Ms. Farra went so far as to say that "if there were less competition between schools and more cooperation, it would unlock the national wealth."

Her thoughts were echoed by Ms. Najjar's "local schools are too competitive; they should applaud each other's successes and cooperate

for the greater good of our country and our world."

It is obvious that these four leaders care passionately about making their good schools even better. Vision and planning, staffing and management are their keys to unlock human resources. These should be used to benefit not only schools but the whole country, by more cooperative approaches.

These are the four headmasters' views; it would be interesting to hear from students and parents, teachers and administrators, employers and officials about what they think makes a 'good school'. It could be set as an exercise by teachers for their students. Parents, whose children are their most precious possession, should be able to answer whether their schools are good enough. Employers' prosperity depends on their workers; are the products of our schools good enough for them? Tax-payers should be able to evaluate how much they spend on the education of others and whether it is good value. If any want to answer, please write in to:

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so we can print your views on this debate over the next few weeks.

The writer, an ex-principal of a British school, is now teaching at Amman Baccalaureate School. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

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Jordan starts preparing for meetings with Iranian officials next week in Tehran

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Iranian Joint Economic Committee will hold its meetings in Tehran between Sept. 28 and Oct. 1, 1997 when it is expected to endorse agreements aimed at promoting trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The announcement was made Saturday by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Halaqia following a meeting by the Jordanian team which is preparing for the talks in Tehran.

In the coming Tehran meeting, the two sides will exchange instruments of ratification of agreements agreed on during the joint committee's first meeting which covered trade and land transport, according to Dr. Halaqia.

The joint committee will sign an agreement on the

creation of a Jordan-Iran business council grouping representatives of the private sector businesses in the two countries and will discuss prospects for Iran to import Jordanian fertilisers, potash and ammonium fluoride and for Jordan to import Iranian raw aluminium, said Dr. Halaqia.

"The prospect of operating a direct air route between Amman and Tehran and an agreement on maritime transport will be discussed," the secretary general added.

He said that the joint committee is also expected to discuss prospects for cooperation between the Jordanian and Iranian export-promotion departments, the question of improving telephone links between the two countries and the exchange of agricultural products which

entails the sale of Iranian dates, garlic and onions to Jordan in exchange for Jordanian citrus fruit and vegetables during the winter season.

During the meeting in Tehran, the two sides are expected to sign a programme on cultural cooperation, a tourism agreement and a protocol on the restoration of holy shrines.

The committee will also sign an agreement on the establishment of a joint Iranian-Jordanian marketing firm, Dr. Halaqia said.

According to sources at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Jordan exported to Iran JD22.3 million worth of Jordanian goods and imported JD8.2 million worth of Iranian products last year.

During the first half of 1997, Jordan exported JD82,000 worth of Jordanian

products and imported JD4.1 million worth of Iranian goods. The head of the Iranian side to the joint committee's meeting will be Industry Minister Rida Shaf'i and the Jordanian side will be led by Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hani Mulki who will be accompanied to the meeting in Tehran by officials from the ministries of planning, finance, education and higher education, tourism as well as representatives from Royal Jordanian, the Jordanian Telecommunications Company, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, the Arab Potash Company and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company in addition to other private sector businessmen.

World Bank forecasts slower economic growth for Asia

HONG KONG (AFP) — East Asia's powerful economies are expected to suffer slower growth in the next decade but the long-term outlook is good despite higher risks in the region, according to the World Bank.

South Asia's growth will also slow but its prospects have been enhanced by economic reforms, said the World Bank report, Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries.

The report said East Asian economies' gross domestic product (GDP) would slow to an average 7.6 per cent during 1997 to 2006 from 9.2 per cent in 1987-96 while South Asia's would ease to 5.9 per cent from 5.4 per cent.

Despite the forecast slow down, East Asia would continue to top world growth tables, followed by South Asia.

For East Asia, the report said: "Given a broadly favourable external environment and the demonstrated ability of regional policymakers to adapt quickly to changing circumstances, the long-term outlook looks good, although the risks have increased."

The major risks to East Asian growth were from outside forces and from domestic policy weakness, it said.

The report cited Thailand problems with slow exports and high debt in the financial sector, which have been widely blamed on poor economic management.

The Thai baht has slumped since it was floated on July 2, triggering turmoil on South East Asian currency markets.

"The risks are greater in countries more exposed to external shocks by larger current account deficits, greater external debt, more fragile banking sectors or a loss of competitiveness in recent years," it said.

"Here a sharp, unanticipated rise in international interest rates or a slump in investor confidence and capital inflows could have more adverse impacts than currently expected," the report added.

The World Bank said average current account deficits were modest but in some South East Asian countries the deficits had

climbed as high as eight-to-10 per cent of GDP.

It said private investment would be key to cutting such deficits.

Apart from tighter macro-economic policies, reducing high rates of effective protection that foster inefficient investments in some manufacturing sectors will be essential, the report said. "Improvements in financial sector performance will also be critical in ensuring better discipline in investment selection and performance, for example to avoid excessive property lending," it added.

For South Asia, the report said, commitments to further reform had been strengthened by the positive impact of earlier changes, especially in India.

And while political and economic stability had worse effects in other countries in the region, there were signs that improving relations between countries may ease military and political tensions and help reforms.

Reforms had moved ahead in India despite changes to government and exports had boomed, the World Bank report said, but "big challenges remain."

"Central among them is reducing a fiscal deficit running around nine per cent of GDP in the past few years, which, among other diverse and pervasive ill effects, hampers investment from being raised to the 30 per cent-plus rates prevalent in East Asia," the World Bank stressed.

"Inadequate private sector provision, lack of competition and poor regulation contribute to severe shortages of infrastructure and low service sector productivity in many areas, seriously constraining potential growth," the report pointed out.

The report said the external environment for South Asia should prove favourable, with lower oil prices and wider access expected for the region's apparel industries.

"On balance, the risks to current forecasts for growth may prove to be more on the upside than the down," the bank concluded.

Omani exports rise

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's exports rose 18 per cent in the first half of 1997 to 1.49 billion riyals (\$395 billion), up from 1.26 billion riyals in the year-ago period, the official Oman News Agency has said.

A development ministry report carried by the agency said the value of oil exports increased by 16 per cent in the first six months of the year to 1.15 billion riyals from 989.5 million in the corresponding period a year earlier.

The value of non-oil exports firmed by 8.7 per cent to about 99 million riyals compared with 91.1 million.

Re-exports in the first half amounted to 241.4 million riyals, a 33.9 per cent rise over 180.3 million riyals a year ago.

Tunisia plans to liberalise insurance market

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia plans to liberalise further its insurance market and is urging its domestic firms to modernise to face increasing international competition.

"We will be obliged to open up progressively our insurance market to foreign firms. The Tunisian firms have five years to prepare themselves to face strong competition," Finance Minister Mohammad Jeri told a seminar on modernising the insurance sector.

Under World Trade Organisation rules and a free trade accord signed with the European Union in 1995, the North African

country will negotiate in the year 2000 the opening up of its services, including the insurance market.

Foreign insurance firms are not yet authorised to set up offices in Tunisia to work on the domestic market, although they can take up to a 49 per cent stake in a resident insurance company or have an offshore branch.

Tunisia has 16 insurance companies. Nine of them are privately-owned and hold nearly 44 per cent of market share, three are controlled by the state, and four are mutual societies. There are seven off-shore branches of foreign insurance firms.

Mohsen Thabet, director-general of insurance at the finance ministry, said that the government was considering further reforms to help the insurance sector modernise.

emise.

"We are aiming to liberalise the vehicle insurance tariffs system, but we still have to find a progressive way to do that," Mr. Thabet told the seminar.

Tariffs for vehicle insurance and civil liability are negotiated between the state and the insurance firms which have been saying that low tariffs were the cause of chronic deficits in these sectors.

Mr. Thabet also said that the state was considering ways to develop life insurance, including possible authorisation of joint insurance and banking operations to expand distribution of life insurance services.

Premiums of the insurance market in 1996 amounted to 324 million dinars (\$287.8 million), up from 292 million dinars in 1995, Mr. Thabet said.

He indicated that the premium ratio to gross domestic product was 1.9 per cent in Tunisia, compared to 2.9 per cent in Morocco, and an average 7.6 per cent in the European Union countries.

"Tunisia has a very low rate of penetration of insurance, but that means that there is a great potential for the development of the market," he said.

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2. Citroen BX (1986) 172,000 Km

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Currency	USD	DM	GBP	CHF	JPY	HKD	SGD	THB
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7700	0.6300	0.6500	110.00	7.7500	1.3600	20.3000
DE Mark	0.5625	1.0000	0.3333	0.3438	19.36	1.3600	2.3600	36.7000
GB Sterling	1.6110	1.5807	1.0000	1.0000	167.36	16.7360	2.7000	42.2400
CHF Franc	0.4802	0.4802	1.0000	1.0000	136.03	13.6030	2.2000	34.2400
JP Yen	0.0092	0.0092	0.0057	0.0057	1.0000	0.0774	0.0127	0.1936
HK Dollar	0.0078	0.0078	0.0049	0.0049	0.0078	1.0000	0.0078	0.1224
IT Lira	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.3600
TH Baht	0.0476	0.0476	0.0297	0.0297	0.0476	0.0476	0.0476	1.0000
SG Dollar	0.7400	0.7400	0.4620	0.4620	83.33	8.3330	1.0000	16.0000

Currency	USD	DM	GBP	CHF	JPY	HKD	SGD	THB
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7700	0.6300	0.6500	110.00	7.7500	1.3600	20.3000
Jordan Dinar	0.2000	0.3540	0.1260	0.1300	22.00	1.5500	0.2720	4.2600
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.4722	0.1611	0.1667	29.36	2.1500	0.3760	5.8400
Bahraini Dinar	2.46	4.3800	1.5400	1.5833	293.66	21.5000	3.7600	58.4000
Omani Rial	0.2000	0.3540	0.1260	0.1300	22.00	1.5500	0.2720	4.2600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.2000	0.3540	0.1260	0.1300	22.00	1.5500	0.2720	4.2600
Qatari Dinar	0.2000	0.3540	0.1260	0.1300	22.00	1.5500	0.2720	4.2600
Yemeni Dinar	0.2000	0.3540	0.1260	0.1300	22.00	1.5500	0.2720	4.2600
Lebanese Lira	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Egyptian Pound	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

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SG Dollar	0.7400	0.7400	0.4620	0.4620	83.33	8.3330	1.0000	16.0000

Peanuts

And so my brothers Andy and Olaf left to find our brother Spike who lives in the desert.



I DON'T THINK THAT WAS A DESERT.

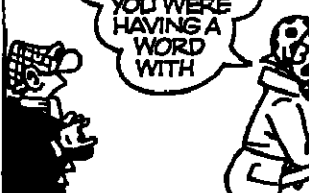


THAT KID LOOKED AT ME REAL FUNNY.



Andy Capp

WHO WAS THAT WOMAN YOU WERE HAVING A WORD WITH?



NOBODY SPECIAL, PET. A RELATIVE OF JACK'S.



NO REALLY ATTRACTIVE LASS CAN EVER LOOK COMPLETELY INNOCENT.

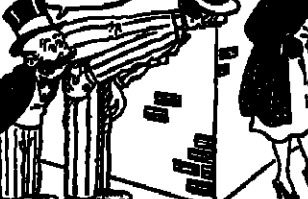


Mutt'n' Jeff

NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR GIRL YET.



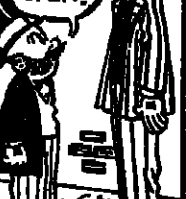
TAKE A LOOK AND LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!



WELL, HOW DOES SHE LOOK?



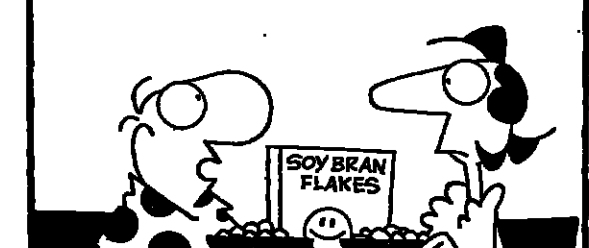
THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL PEARL NECK LACE SHE'S WEARING!



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

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"If I promise not to die young, can I start eating bacon and eggs again?"



JUMBLE.

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Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Pension systems in Jordan found inadequate

**** A COMMITTEE** formed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to study restructuring the pension systems in Jordan has found that the state pension was a heavy financial burden on the country's budget and that many weak points in the overall system will have major consequences in the long-term. "The pension policy will not be supportive to the growth policy that Jordan seeks to achieve in the coming decade," the committee's report said.

The report indicated that if the government seeks to support the financial stability in the long term, the restructuring of the pension system should be done at an early stage. "All expectations point to a heavier burden on the budget due to the state pension," the report said, adding that year after year growth in pension rights will lead to doubling the implied internal debt on the government.

The committee considered the state pension as very generous (through allowances granted to retired people) and said this would result in an increase of obligations and require financing either through higher taxes or reduction in other expenditures. The social security was considered by the committee to be suffering from similar problems due to the dispute regarding minimum payments for ordinary and early retirement and other types of retirement, as well as allowances.

The report/study said that despite the availability of surplus at present and the increase in such surplus in the future, projections indicate that the social security fund is heading towards deficit after the year 2040, especially as the fund adopts the method of "deduction during work."

However, the study considered the social security better than the state pension, but it noted that its administrative cost is considered high when measured by international

standards.

The committee criticised the early retirement system at government institutions, noting quite a number of cases. "This means not utilising the human capital and, as such, this deficiency will lead to negative effects at the saving levels in the Jordanian economy," the study indicated. Noting that both the state pension and the social security were liable to the possibility of "embarrassment" and to be affected by political factors which would reflect on their financial situation, the report stressed the need to amend the policies in the future in order to ease the severance of the effects of financial crises.

The study indicated that the financial burden of the retirement system in Jordan was due to the state pension (civil and military) which should be financed from taxation income. This has put a general debt on the government towards the pensioners who, by being served, are minimising the possibility of reducing the financial obligations and of trying to stop them from rising in the short-term.

According to the study, three quarters of the pension obligations are military-related and should be discussed within "defence financial obligations" and not within retirement regulations. The study emphasised the importance of starting to restructure the pension systems and said the basic step should be appointing civil servants by contract and subjecting them to the social security system. "After 20 to 30 years civil servants will be included in the social security system," the committee said.

The committee cautioned of linking the restructuring of retirement regulations with the restructuring of the civil service and the quick drive towards privatisation (Al Arab Al Yawm).

Kuwait, Bahrain bourses to link up by end of this month

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti and Bahraini stock exchanges are aiming to sign an agreement by the end of September to boost cross trading, the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) chief has said.

The agreement, similar to a pact Kuwait already has with Lebanon and Egypt, will ease the way for investors from one market to buy shares listed on the other bourse, KSE general manager Hisham

Al Otaibi told reporters.

The agreement will link the clearing houses and brokerage firms and encourage cross trading and the exchange of corporate information, Mr. Otaibi said, adding that the deal will be signed at the "end of this month, hopefully."

Mr. Otaibi said a similar agreement with Oman could follow, as part of a programme aimed at linking all Arab bourses.

"After we finish with Bahrain, we will be contacting the Oman Stock Exchange," he said.

Kuwaiti and Bahraini investors can already buy shares on either bourse, but face a time-consuming process that includes sending cheques and certificates via couriers without immediate guarantees that a deal has gone through.

Once the new agreement is in place, local clearing houses can guarantee pay-

ments on either market, and brokers on one market will be able to establish partnerships with brokers on the other market to take orders directly.

"We have a lot of Bahraini investors on the Kuwait Stock Exchange, and this kind of arrangement could facilitate the transaction process for them," said Bader Al Sumait, head of Kuwait's Al Oula Financial Brokerage Company.

The deal between the Kuwaiti, Lebanese and Egyptian bourses was signed in December 1996, and cross trading began last January.

Kuwait's bourse has a market capitalisation of about \$25 billion and daily trading of about \$100 million, while the Bahrain exchange has a market capitalisation of about \$6 billion and daily trading of about \$4 million.

Dubai gold imports hit record high in July

DUBAI (R) — Dubai imported a record 62,955 tonnes of gold in July, cementing its role as the largest bullion redistribution centre, the World Gold Council (WGC) has said.

WGC Middle East and India Chief Executive Rolf Schneebeli, quoting Dubai customs statistics, said the Arab Gulf emirate imported 62,955 tonnes of gold in July, more than double the 29,891 tonnes for the same month last year.

"I am happy to say that this close to 63 tonnes is an all-time high for Dubai," Mr. Schneebeli told a news conference.

"It is cementing Dubai's leading role as the largest gold redistribution centre, far ahead of Singapore," he said, adding that Dubai's imports were now 26 per cent more than Singapore's.

The WGC, owned by major gold producers, aims to promote gold usage. It monitors about 75 per cent of world gold markets.

Mr. Schneebeli said Dubai's gold imports so far this year have surged past imports for the whole of 1996. Imports during the first seven months of 1997 reached 370.71 tonnes, above the nearly 350 tonnes imported in 1996.

The import rise was prompted by increased demand in the Indian subcontinent — the world's number one gold consumer — and in the Gulf due to falling world prices, he said.

Gold prices have fallen sharply since February under threat of selling from central banks as they

reviewed the worth of holding gold reserves. Prices have dropped from around \$368 an ounce at the beginning of the year to around \$324 now.

International spot gold was last quoted at \$324.50/325.00.

Dubai is the main hub for gold exports to India, around three-quarters of Dubai's gold imports are re-exported to India.

According to figures released by the WGC, India's 1996 gold imports stood at 508 tonnes and were expected to rise this year.

WGC officials played down the impact of a possible liberalisation of India's gold import policy, saying Dubai would adapt to new regulations if they materialised.

Traders said Sunday a

newspaper report that India was about to move to an open general licence (OGL) system freeing up gold imports prompted a slowdown in orders in the week.

WGC Gulf Manager D.V. Pathy said Dubai may actually benefit from Indian liberalisation.

"The trade here provides an excellent complement to the needs of Indian importers. Many a time routing orders through Dubai ensures quicker delivery for Indian importers," he said.

Schneebeli said: "As far as India goes, the advantage of dealing through Dubai has historically been the benefit of both sides because of geographic proximity and ethnic ties."

Russia joins Paris Club of creditor nations

PARIS (R) — Russia has signed a milestone accord to join the Paris Club of creditor nations and said it planned to close a debt-rescheduling deal with its commercial creditors soon.

Finance Minister Anatoly Chubais said it would have a significant impact on the country's finances.

"This is a very important decision for us for both political and financial reasons," he told a news conference.

Russia inherited billions of dollars of debt owed both by and to the former Soviet Union, when it broke up in 1991.

It has been seeking membership in the Paris Club both as a sign of respectability in the international financial community and also because it believes it will be easier to recoup the money it is owed by developing countries within the club.

Mr. Chubais said the Paris Club accord would triple repayments to Moscow from debtor countries, increasing these to \$500-\$700 million per year from around \$150-\$200 million now.

Under the deal, Russia will apply a discount of 30 to 80 per cent on debt owed to it, applying a higher discount to the debt of poor countries.

The debt, some of which under old agreements was to have been repaid in goods or commodities, will be repaid in convertible currencies at an exchange rate of 0.6 roubles per dollar, the official rate in 1992. Around \$37 billion of debt is involved.

Mr. Chubais also said Russia and its creditor banks in the London Club would sign a deal rescheduling commercial bank debt on Oct. 6. Around \$35 billion is involved.

The deal would then be closed in the first few days of December, Deputy Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said.

Russia already has an agreement with the banks, represented by Germany's Deutsche Bank A.G., on rescheduling the debt.

In recent months, the two sides have been labouriously reconciling the individual loans, originally issued by 600 banks and which have since changed hands many times in the secondary market for sovereign debt.

Mr. Chubais said that the Paris and London club deals should enhance Russia's credit-rating and said Moscow was considering asking major international agencies to modify its rating.

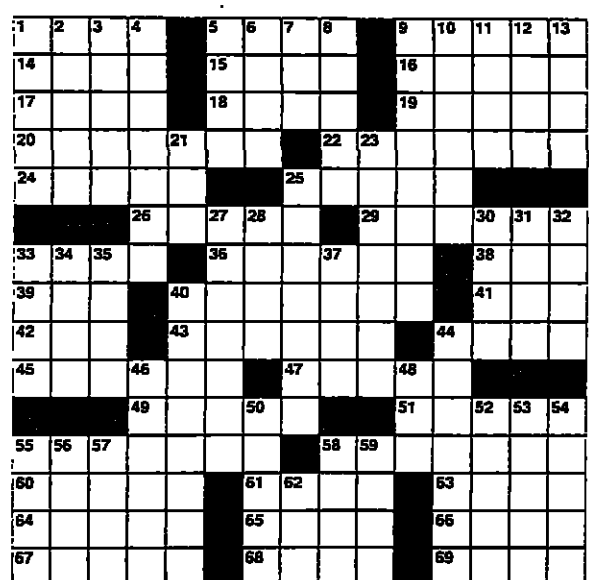
REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Great deal
5 Basketball star, briefly
9 Fake
14 Indian nursemaid
15 Pizarro's conquest
16 Irregularly notched
17 California city
18 Length times width
19 Cloth and Lachesis
20 Oriental
22 Detests
24 Receives as salary
25 Plenty
26 Playful mammal
29 Senior citizens
33 Farm building
36 Hit the hay
39 By way of
39 Tarradiddle
40 Web-footed bird
41 Chang's twin
42 Oldham city
43 Abate
44 Church calendar
45 Jazz devotee
47 Elan
49 Oak-to-be
51 Be profligate
55 Heard in the Highlands
58 Printer's aid
60 Made public
61 Docking place
63 Actor Kaplan
64 Traffic tie-up
65 Sea eagle
66 Long narrative
67 Brazen woman
68 Woman
69 Chair



by Alan Olshchwang

STU RANI GIES
SHUT IVAN RIDER
PARE CORN AFIRE
ARK CHICKEN FIED
NEEDED ERIE
YEAR GENTLEST
ACTUP TOPPE BAK
MORT BAIRES BAK
LIDO BONES POLIS
DIETRAINS AHOY
ERSE CRIBBLED
RODSTER TAIL LIVE
IRATE IONS LRAIN
OTHER ETTE ODDS
SUDS SOON USE

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- DOWN
1 Jousting
2 City on the Missouri
3 Nocturnal mammal
4 River in Ireland
5 Health resorts
6 Roll call response
7 Have being
8 Uneasy feeling
9 Happened
10 Delivered a keynote address
11 Barbarian
12 Certain plaintiff
13 Meeting: abbr.
21 Founded: abbr.
23 Certain math quantity
25 Craftsman
27 "Rock-a-bye" baby on the
28 Snigger's prey
30 At any time
31 Outer cover
32 Certain starch
33 Drive
34 Page
35 Harvest
37 Cake decorator
40 In a calm manner
44 Florida fruit
46 Frolics
48 Be in debt
50 Chase off
52 Tulip part
53 Fibula's neighbor
54 Put in office
55 Gala
56 Japanese aborigine
57 Mardi —
58 Transmit
59 Deuce topper
62 A Gershwin

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK FINANCIAL MARKET - JORDANIAN										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 20/09/1997										
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH		COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
344.000	241.000	ARAB BANK	15.2	1.21	40	1100	343300	333.00	330.00	3.00
N 2.340	1.680	JOR. MONTREAL BK.	2	0.00	37	21850	43081	1.99	1.96	0.03
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.3	0.00	2	10290	30750	3.00	3.00	0.00
1.110	0.890	MID. EAST TRV. BK.	99.8	0.00	8	4730	4323	91	91	-
2.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.0	0.00	4	1000	2270	2.27	2.27	0.00
1.210	0.840	JOR. SECUR. BANK	11.0	0.00	10	1361	6117	1.18	1.10	-0.08
1.050	0.750	JOR. SECUR. BANK	4.5	0.00	5	21500	16130	1.76	1.76	0.01
4.050	3.520	JOR. SECUR. BANK	15.5	3.14	56	35990	136255	3.68	3.60	0.06
2.220	1.890	SEIT. AL-BAL (BANK)	6	15.96	2	230	235	95	94	-0.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 236.72 FCBI: -0.87 165 98263 602809										
1.740	1.200	ARABIAN SEC. EXCH.	9.2	0.00	1	250	315	1.20	1.26	-0.06
2.200	1.890	JOR. SECUR. EXCH.	4.9	8.37	6	3548	6247	1.24	1.25	0.01
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 115.04 FCBI: +0.29 7 3798 6562										
1.850	1.550	JOR. ELKATIBI PWR.	8.9	5.43	139	11578	214761	1.82	1.84	+0.02
2.520	1.250	JOR. ELKATIBI PWR.	17.6	3.89	2	100	256	2.82	2.96	+0.14
3.000	2.450	HIDEN MINERALS	15.4	5.11	2	79612	242826	3.00	3.05	+0.05
7.400	4.000	VARIA. OILERS FED.	7.9	4.83	1	10000	7260	7.23	7.25	-0.02
6.100	4.100	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	13.5	4.55	4	1800	7940	4.50	4.66	+0.06
3.050	2.300	SHIPPING LINES	16.0	4.72	1	250	688	2.80	2.75	-0.05
1.560	0.930	RAVIL PORTFOLIO	9	6.85	20	14000	18684	1.38	1.31	-0.07
1.010	0.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	6	14975	14471	0.92	0.92	0.00
8.160	6.700	ALBA T	12.8	6.99	4	121	863	7.00	7.15	+0.15
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EXCH.	8.7	0.00	5	2800	9380	3.35	3.35	-0.00
1.190	0.930	ZAKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	6	2950	2971	1.01	1.01	0.00
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.3	0.00	10	2300	4023	1.76	1.74	-0.02
1.960	1.640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	5	1513	1067	1.71	1.70	-0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 109.70 FCBI: -0.70 210 246212 590481										
4.450	3.220	JOR. CREDIT FACT.	25.9	2.86	30	81509	313852	3.85	3.85	-0.00
7.050	5.400	ARAB PETROLE. CO.	14.1	3.31	7	5374	32764	6.00	6.05	+0.05
10.900	9.070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.5	8.16	59	17610	192500	10.89	10.89	0.00
3.160	1.620	INDUSTRIAL COMM. CO.	9	0.00	1	150	248	1.65	1.65	-0.00
4.670	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.7	4.35	45	16318	75691	4.66	4.60	-0.06
2.650	2.150	JORDAN DAILY	8.9	9.22	1	50	133	2.65	2.65	-0.00
8.950	4.300	DAR ALMAJAL TRV. BK.	24.0	4.36	3	750	4303	5.85	5.73	-0.12
3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.8	10.04	5	2250	5625	2.50	2.49	-0.01
1.960	1.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.4	0.00	81	97700	48425	1.49	1.49	0.00
3.270	1.500	ARAB PETRO. CHEM.	10.6	0.00	5	1500	1905	1.03	1.00	-0.03
1.770	0.810	NATIONAL TRNS.	9	0.00	3	1500	795	1.53	1.53	0.00
5.100	3.710	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	17	11050	6029	5.56	5.54	-0.02
2.980	1.510	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	13.3	6.76	1	150	222	1.52	1.48	-0.04
3.000	2.070	NATL. CABLE WIRE. NVAC	36.9	0.00	1	100	230	2.25	2.30	+0.05
1.890	0.520	JOR. SUPPLY-CHM.	7	0.00	5	4750	2898	1.62	1.61	-0.01
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	1	250	335	1.34	1.34	0.00
1.880	1.080	UNIV. MOON. IND.	9	0.00	13	8750	11013	1.28	1.25	-0.03
1.470	0.900	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	10.99	9	4300	3913	0.92	0.91	-0.01
1.620	1.300	NATL. CELESTINE	15.0	4.40	23	56100	88947	1.57	1.59	+0.02
1.070	0.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	10	5150	4278	1.84	1.83	-0.01
1.320	0.580	INTL. TORONTO	16.2	0.00	10	2190	4023	1.76	1.74	-0.02
1.180	0.860	UNION CH. & VED.	52.7	0.00	4	1600	1896	1.16	1.16	0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 121.36 FCBI: +0.20 338 319151 798469										
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 173.38 FCBI: -0.46 720 667424 1998320										
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 20/09/1997										
4.630	3.100	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	500	150	3.10	3.01	-0.01
1.450	0.800	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.2	0.00	14	21000	8820	1.12	1.10	-0.02
1.550	1.060	JARA FOR INVESTMENT	72.2	0.00	1	1500	1650	1.10	1.10	0.00
N 1.950	0.840	JOR. PET. DEV. CO.	9	0.00	17	26100	17899	0.67	0.69	+0.02
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.74	1.75	+0.01
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.550	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
1.780	0.650	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0.00
1.570	0.380	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	47400	18417	0.38	0.39	+0.01
N 1.950	0.710	AL-DHAKIL TRV. BK.	73.9	0.00	4	14250	7410	0.77	0.77	0.00
1.480	0.300	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.2	0.00	2	1500	360	0.26	0.24	-0.01
1.110	0.490	UNION TRV. SEC.	9	0.00	4	6200	2495	1.88	1.88	0

Davis Cup

Americans slap back Aussies while Swedes made to fight by Italians

PARIS (AFP) — The United States moved just one win away from reaching their 59th Davis Cup final as Pete Sampras and Michael Chang all but destroyed Australian hopes in Washington on Friday by winning both of the opening day's singles.

Meanwhile Sweden found themselves level-pegging at one victory apiece with visiting underdogs Italy after two five-set thrillers in the other semi-final in Norrköping.

There was plenty of drama in the qualifying ties. The 1996 champions France were left staring at possible relegation from the World Group when they trailed 2-0 against Belgium in Ghent after their No. 1 Cedric Pioline was forced to retire in the second singles with a back injury against Johan Van Herck. Earlier Fabrice Santoro was crushed in straight-sets by top home player Filip Dewulf.

In the other World Group qualifying clashes the hierarchy was largely respected. After the first day Germany, Russia, Switzerland and Brazil had all made their expected bright starts to take 2-0 leads — but Austria were left level-pegging at 1-1 in Zimbabwe, and India and Chile were also deadlocked in New Delhi.

The United States, who have won the competition 31 times, took immediate charge of their showdown with Australia.

Chang avenged his recent U.S. Open semi-final defeat by beating Pat Rafter 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 and Sampras then produced some of his finest tennis to defeat Mark Philippoussis, one of the world's biggest servers, 6-1, 6-2, 7-6 (7/5).

The results were the best way of silencing the mounting criticism since the disappointing home performances at the U.S. Open that men's tennis in the United States was in sharp decline.

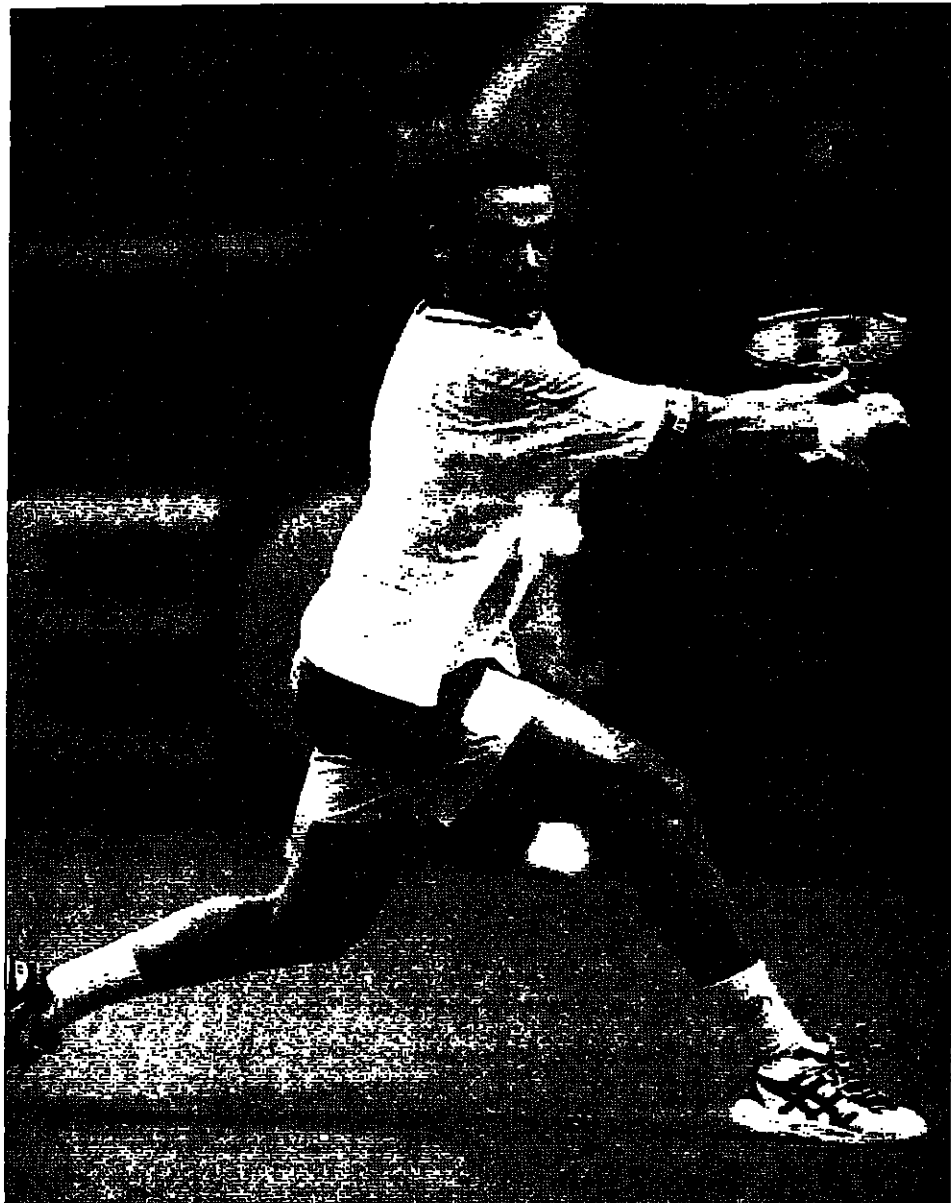
Australian captain John Newcombe, who had arrived in Washington with such high hopes, admitted after the first day's play: "We're down. We're in bad shape."

If the Australians are to reach the final they will need to match their greatest-ever rally in Davis Cup history back in 1939 when they recovered from 0-2 to beat the Americans 3-2 for the trophy. Recovering after losing both of the opening singles is something which has happened in the World Group only seven times in 97 years.

Australia are now hoping Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, the world's top-rated doubles players, will keep their hopes alive Saturday. They are set to face Jim Courier and Todd Martin — unless American captain Tom Gullikson decides to play Sampras.

Renzo Furlan was the Italian hero — scoring a shock 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Thomas Enqvist after World No. 13 Jonas Björkman had given last year's finalists the lead by beating 220th-ranked Italian Omar Camporese 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

The results kept alive Italian hopes of winning the trophy for only the second time. In 1976 they



Renzo Furlan returns the ball in an opening singles match in the Sweden v Italy Davis Cup World group semi-final in Norrköping. Thomas Enqvist lost the match to Renzo Furlan 6-3 3-6 4-6 6-3 3-6 (Reuters photo)



Australian Davis Cup player Patrick Rafter returns a shot during an opening round loss in the Davis Cup semi-finals against Michael Chang, September 19. Chang defeated Rafter in the Davis Cup semi final 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 (Reuters photo)

defeated Chile 4-1 in the final with Adriano Panatta contributing three of the team's points.

Sweden, who have won the Davis Cup five times, are scheduled to line up Björkman with Nicklas Kulti against Camporese

and Diego Nargiso in Saturday's doubles.

Cedric Pioline appeared to be cruising to a straight-forward victory in Ghent when he took a two sets to love lead over Johan Van Herck. But he hurt his back stretching for a low volley

in the tenth game of the third set and had to withdraw while trailing 1-4 in the fourth.

Earlier Dewulf, a surprise unseeded semi-finalist at this year's French Open, outplayed Santoro on the indoor clay court 6-1, 6-3,

6-3.

French captain Yannick Noah admitted: "Things certainly look pretty bleak. We are trailing 0-2 and our top player is injured and I'll be very, very surprised if he is able to play again in this tie."

Noah now intends to pin his hopes on a Santoro and Guillaume Raoux lineup in Saturday's doubles. Pioline was originally expected to play both singles and doubles.

In Essen, Boris Becker and Marc-Kevin Goellner both scored clearcut straight set victories against Mexico.

Former World No. 1 Becker, in top form despite nine weeks without a tournament appearance, took just over two hours to defeat 204th-ranked Luis Herrera 7-5, 6-2, 6-3.

The three-time Wimbledon champion, winding down his career at the age of 29, said: "After 40 Davis Cup ties, this was routine."

Goellner, 26, overcame 19-year-old Alejandro Hernandez 7-5, 6-3, 6-3.

Switzerland also moved one match away from victory against South Korea in Locarno.

Mark Rosset, who after a disappointing season posted improved form by reaching the final in Tashkent last weekend, defeated plucky Lee Hyung-Taik 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/4) and admitted: "I should have finished it easier but I had problems adapting to a player I had never played."

The Swiss number two, Ivo Heuberger, who went into Friday's tie clearly lacking confidence after notching up just one win from his previous seven tournaments, then reassured captain Stéphane Oberer by outplaying Yong-II Yoon 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.

In Moscow, Russia moved closer to staying among the elite next season when Alexander Volkov and Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat their Romanian opponents Andrei Pavel and Ion Moldovan.

And in Florianopolis French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten and Fernando Melligeni scored straight-set wins for Brazil against New Zealanders Alistair Hunt and Brett Steven.

Olympic bronze medalist Leander Paes routed Gilbert Silberstein in straight sets to give hosts India a 1-0 lead against Chile but, despite the grass surface, World No. 7 Marcelo Rios pulled the South Americans back level by beating Mahesh Bhupathi in four sets.

Zimbabwe made a bright start against Austria in Harare when Byron Black beat Gilbert Schaller 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 but Thomas Muster quickly evened the scoreline by defeating Wayne Black 6-3, 6-0, 6-4.



Pete Sampras waves to fans after defeating Australian Mark Philippoussis during their Davis Cup semi-final match. Sampras won 6-1 6-2 7-6, to give the U.S. a 2-0 lead (Reuters photo)

World Cup qualifiers

Saudi Arabia, UAE held to draws

PARIS (AFP) — Saudi Arabia had goalkeeper Mohammed Al Daeyea to thank for their 1-1 draw with Iran in a World Cup Asian Zone Group A match in Tehran on Friday evening.

Al Daeyea, whose penalty saves helped the Saudis to the Asian Cup last December, saved a spot kick from Karim Bagheri in the 28th minute and made several other stops as the

Saudis held on for the draw and a share of the lead in the group alongside Iran.

The Saudis took the lead the 33rd minute through a close-range shot from Ibrahim Al Souayyed but Bagheri earned a point for Iran with his 64th-minute goal.

The German-based midfielder struck from six metres out after the Saudi defence failed to clear the ball.

Kuwait moved to within one point of Iran and the Saudis at the head of the group after a 2-0 win away to Qatar thanks to goals from Jassem Houaidi after 17 minutes and Bachar Abdallah a minute from fulltime.

Japan maintained their unbeaten record in Group B with a 0-0 draw away to the United Arab Emirates but are two points behind group leaders South Korea.

Asian World Cup standings

Group A	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Iran	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
S. Arabia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Kuwait	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Qatar	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
China	1	0	0	1	2	4	0

Group B	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
S. Korea	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
UAE	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Japan	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
Uzbekistan	2	0	0	2	4	8	0
Kazakhstan	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

McRae out of Indonesia Rally

PARAPAT, Indonesia (AFP) — Scotland's Colin McRae crashed out of the Rally of Indonesia here on Saturday when his Subaru spun into a tree.

McRae, who has been leading after Friday's opening day, lost control of car when it hit a patch of mud.

The car smashed into a tree, wrecking the front, and with it McRae's hopes of victory.

"We just hit the mud too fast; it was a caution corner but the first wet one we had come across and I was just pushing too hard. It wasn't bad luck. It was entirely my fault and it is not until afterwards that you just kick yourself for pushing that bit too hard," said McRae afterwards.

The Scotsman's accident handed the

lead to Carlos Sainz in an Escot who finished the day with a narrow 20 second advantage over second placed Juha Kankkunen.

Earlier in the day former world rally champion Didier Auriol was forced to retire when his Toyota Corolla suffered severe electrical problems.

"Suddenly everything just came to a halt. An electrical problem is always one of the hardest to solve and although we tried to find a way of continuing it was not possible. I'm disappointed," said Auriol, the 1994 champion.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA "1" Val Kilmer & Elizabeth Shue... in THE SAINT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	PHILADELPHIA "2" Alyssa Milano & William Petersen... in FEAR Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	PLAZA Don Johnson ... in GUILTY AS SIN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD Sandra Bullock & Samuel L. Jackson... in A TIME TO KILL (12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30) CONCORD "2" BATMAN & ROBIN Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only	GALLERIA 1 ABDOUN John Travolta & Nicolas Cage ... in Face Off Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	GALLERIA 2 ABDOUN Julia Roberts ... in MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Hisham Times Theatre TEL: 625155 Watch out for the new play THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE Starring Hisham Youssef and Amal Dabbas
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Saints agree fee for Palmer

LEEDS (AFP) — Premiership strugglers Southampton are close to signing former England midfielder Carlton Palmer from Leeds for £1 million (about \$1.6 million). Palmer travelled to the Dell for talks on Friday and has now returned to Yorkshire to hammer out details of any move with Leeds. The midfielder still has two-and-a-half years left on his contract at Elland Road. A Leeds spokesman confirmed: "Leeds have agreed a fee of one million pounds with Southampton for the purchase of Carlton Palmer." Meanwhile, Tony Yeboah may be on his way to Italy if his move to Hamburg fails. Yeboah owes £250,000 in tax to the German authorities and he is trying to come to an agreement. However, Italian side Lecce, back in Serie A this season, have also made an offer to Leeds for the Ghanaian international.

Brolin deal off

LONDON (AFP) — Swedish striker Tomas Brolin is still contracted to Leeds United after a proposed loan deal to Scottish Premier League club Hearts fell through on Friday. The World Cup star was hopeful of kick-starting his career at Tynecastle after being frozen out at Leeds, but the clubs were unable to reach agreement on the terms of a deal.

AC Milan pull out of Ravanelli deal

LONDON (AFP) — Italian powerhouses AC Milan have pulled out of a deal that would have ended Fabrizio Ravanelli's spell with Middlesbrough and now the £7 million rated Italian striker has agreed to return to Teesside next week to discuss his future. The former Juventus ace has given Boro boss Bryan Robson a verbal assurance that he will fly back to England next week after Milan failed to make an official offer for his services. "Ravanelli will come back next week. We will then discuss the situation with him," said Robson. "AC Milan did not make an offer and it looks as though Everton's interest is now dead. Borussia Dortmund offered to take Ravanelli on loan for the season, but how can you send a £7 million player on loan?" Ravanelli, who scored 31 league and cup goals for Middlesbrough last season, has not played for the first division club since a home defeat by Stoke on August 23.



Andy Green, driver of ThrustSSC, the British jet car in the background that will attempt to break the world land speed record and possibly the sound barrier, walks away from ThrustSSC after compression tests were finished on the Black Rock Desert near Gerlach, Nevada. The British team did not have time to attempt any runs as the American entrant, Spirit of America, took longer than expected to finish their attempt (Reuters photo)

Venables named in F.A. Premier League inquiry

LONDON (AFP) — Terry Venables authorised a £50,000 payment to Nottingham Forest when he signed Teddy Sheringham for Tottenham and the England striker lied about the deal, according to the Premier League's inquiry into payments made in contravention of the sport's rules.

But Venables, now coach of the Australian national team, was only acting in what he believed was the best interests of Tottenham at the time, in what the inquiry called a "cult of dishonesty" in English football's transfer market.

And while the Football Association will decide on what action to take in the next few days, there is no evidence whatsoever that then Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough received any part of the illegal payment, even if his assistant Ronnie Fenton did receive money.

Those were the main findings of the Premier League investigation into the "bungs" affair, which released its report on Saturday after three-and-a-half years.

The investigation team of Robert Reid QC, former Premier League chief executive Rick Parry and Crystal Palace manager Steve Coppell studied more than 10,200 pages of evidence from 66 witnesses into some 30 deals.

Although there could be no arguing with the thoroughness of the £1 million plus investigation, there was precious little in the findings that had not been widely canvassed before.

Throughout the late 80s and early 90s, the football authorities are criticised for having "turned a blind eye" to the illegal involvement of agents in transfers.

This "created a cult of dishonesty" throughout the game, which, the inquiry finds, "only served to damage the game of football by making it easier for more serious corruption to flourish."

Particular problems came with transfers from Scandinavia, with agents — such as Norwegian Rune Hauge — earning high fees and commissions based on the low expectations of the selling clubs.

The spotlight, however, was only turned on after chairman Alan Sugar made allegations about Clough's part in the 1992 Sheringham transfer as part of his courtroom battle for control of Spurs with Venables.

Reid's inquiry team finds that former Arsenal skipper Frank McLintock was used as the middleman, taking the cash payment

from Spurs to Fenton.

That cash handover took place at a meeting in Luton that Fenton, McLintock and Sheringham all initially denied having taken place, even though that was when the transfer forms were signed.

The report declares that "all three gave accounts which did not accord with what actually occurred at the meeting."

But Reid and Parry — if not Coppell, who dissented from sections of the report — had no doubt that the £50,000, paid by Venables to McLintock hours earlier, was handed over to Fenton.

Fenton, now coaching in Malta, is the man most likely to be picked out as the FA investigates what spokesman David Davies conceded were "unacceptable and unsavoury activities in the past."

At no stage was there found any evidence that Clough was aware of any scams or that he benefited in whole or part.

While Venables' conduct in the Sheringham deal "cannot be justified," the inquiry found he did not make or intend to make any money himself and that he believed the payment was "an essential pre-requisite" of signing the player to improve Tottenham's fortunes.

And Venables' decision to ask restaurateur Gino Santin to help smooth Paul Gascoigne's 1991 move to Lazio actually resulted in Spurs receiving £600,000 more than the Italian club wanted to pay.

Recommendations from Reid, Parry and Coppell urge rules that will prevent clubs from negotiating solely through agents, although they do say there was nothing to suggest corruption is endemic in the game.

Reid confirmed: "There is no evidence that players were bought or sold for the financial gain of managers. The transactions were thought to be in the best interests of the club."

The powers of the inquiry mean that the next steps are in the hands of the FA, who have already asked former Metropolitan Police deputy commissioner Sir John Smith to expand his current investigation into betting rules to look at the way the game regulates its financial affairs.

FA disciplinary charges resulting from the report seem likely, with a decision on action due "shortly" after chief executive Graham Kelly has completed discussions with the FA's legal advisors.

Sanchez Vicario survives 7 match points

TOKYO (AFP) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario saved seven match points before storming back to beat Yayuk Basuki in the semi-finals of the \$450,000 Princess Cup tennis tournament on Saturday.

The Spanish former World No. 1 was a set and 4-5, 30-40 down when she made a timely break of serve to stage a remarkable comeback for a 1-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 victory over the fifth seeded Indonesian.

In the final Sunday, Sanchez Vicario, seeking her first win since April last year, will take on another former World No. 1 Monica Seles.

The Yugoslav-born American reached her seventh final of the season by crushing last local hope Naoko Sawamatsu with a convincing 6-3, 6-1 victory earlier in the day.

"You never now until the last point," said Sanchez Vicario reflecting on her victory.

"On the critical points, I came back playing great shots and I was able to stay in the match to go to the tie-break. It gave me great confidence winning this way."

"Maybe people thought I would not win this match. But I'm a big fighter and I still believed in myself. I proved it by coming back with great shots when I needed them to win the match," she added.

The highlight of the 148-minute battle between Sanchez Vicario and Basuki came in the 10th game of the second set, which lasted 18 minutes and needed nine deuces before finally the Spaniard broke Basuki to tie it at 5-5.

Sanchez Vicario's famous will to win returned at the right moment as she ran around the court and returned every angled shot from the Indonesian.

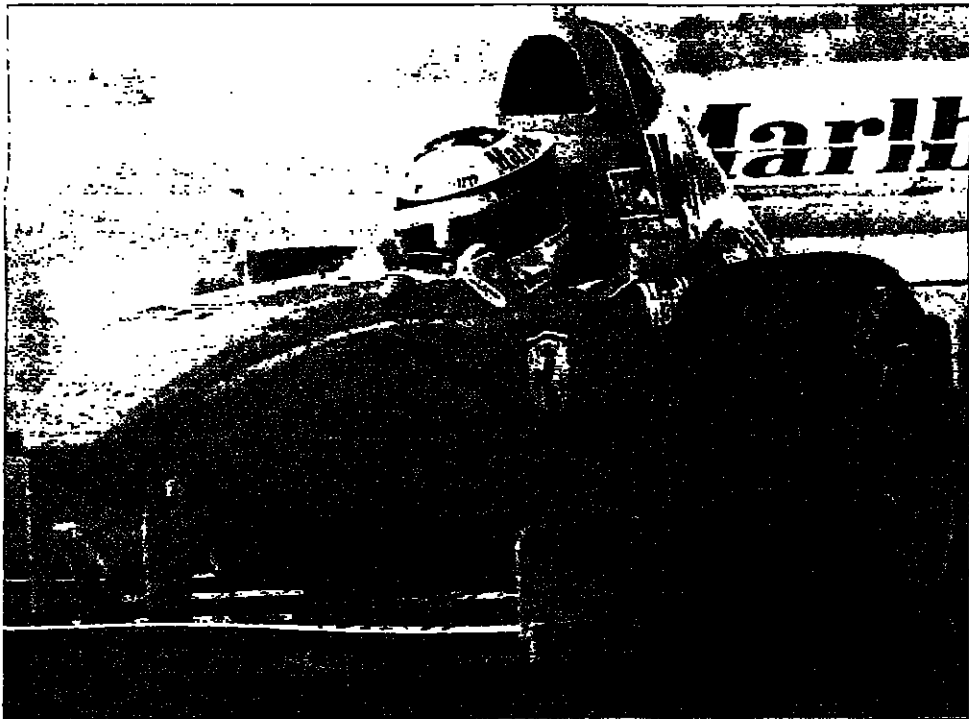
After taking the game to advantage for the second time, Sanchez Vicario forced Basuki to hit a backhanded volley into the net and went on to win the tie-breaker 7-2 to even the score at one all.

A dejected Basuki double-faulted at 15-40 to lose the opening game of the final set and although the two traded breaks in the seventh and eighth games, the Indonesian never recovered from the deficit.

Sanchez Vicario also missed two match points in the eighth game, but didn't fail in her third attempt, as Basuki's forehand approach shot landed long.

"Some other players would have made mistakes when they have to hit a passing shot on seven matchpoints. Arantxa just hung in there," said Basuki.

"Arantxa played incredible points. She was really tough. She's one of the greatest players who have the greatest mentality in the world," she added.



Germany's Michael Schumacher drives his Ferrari during the second timed session for the Austrian Grand Prix. Schumacher clocked a time of 1:11.018 minutes (Reuters photo)

Villeneuve boosts championship hopes

ZELTWEG, Austria (AFP) — Jacques Villeneuve's championship hopes got a much needed boost here on Saturday when he put his Williams Renault on pole position for Sunday's Austria Grand Prix.

The Canadian, who is only 10 points adrift of championship leader Michael Schumacher, made the most of the sunny weather to collect his eighth pole of the season with a time of 1:10.304.

"We always knew it was going to be close," said Villeneuve.

"That was an exciting session — it was fun.

Hopefully I can stay on top in the race."

The 26-year-old had the added satisfaction of seeing his arch-rival slump to only ninth fastest and on the fifth row.

With overtaking at a premium on the rebuilt circuit, Schumacher, who failed to manage the full 12 laps during qualifying when his car suffered a mechanical problem, will have his work cut out to get his Ferrari into the points.

McLaren's Mika Hakkinen, looking for his first Grand Prix win, will line up aside Villeneuve on the front row of the grid.

Defending champion Damon Hill, who signed a £10 million contract with Jordan for next season, qualified his Arrow in seventh spot, just ahead of Schumacher's Ferrari team mate Eddie Irvine.

Jarno Trulli, hoping to confirm his place in the Prost team for next season, put the Frenchman on the second row after he finished third. Heinz Harald Frentzen in the second Williams was fourth.

MAJOR LEAGUE RESULTS

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Baseball results after Friday's games.

National League			
Philadelphia	10	Cubs	5 (6 Innings)
Florida	5	NY Mets	2
St Louis	6	Pittsburgh	5 (11 Innings)
Cincinnati	5	Houston	4
Atlanta	2	Montreal	1
Colorado	6	Los Angeles	4
San Francisco	7	San Diego	4
American League			
Kansas City	10	Cleveland	3 (1st Gm)
Cleveland	6	Kansas City	2 (2nd Gm)
White Sox	5	Boston	4 (10 Innings)
Detroit	5	Baltimore	3 (10 Innings)
Toronto	3	NY Yankees	0
Milwaukee	7	Minnesota	4
Anaheim	7	Texas	1
Seattle	9	Oakland	4

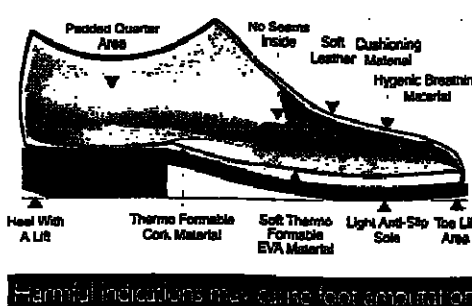
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Grobbelaar thanks Oxford for fresh chance

OXFORD (AFP) — Bruce Grobbelaar on Saturday thanked First Division Oxford for giving him the chance to resurrect his career after the trauma of being tried twice on charges of fixing matches.

The former Liverpool goalkeeper received a call from Oxford boss Denis Smith after the re-trial at Winchester Crown Court, where Grobbelaar was finally acquitted of match-fixing charges in August.

He has now been charged by the Football Association (FA) with breaking betting rules, but the Zimbabwe international insists he is still enjoying the game.

"I would never throw a game. It was too important for me.

Football, in some ways, has always been everything," he told Saturday's Express.

"But even on the worst days and nights — I never lost my passion for the game. I never forgot what it had done for me.

"When the second trial was over my phone stayed quiet for a while and then the odd caller said such-

and-such was interested — Motherwell, Kilmarnock, maybe even Celtic.

"But no managers came on the line until Denis Smith did from Oxford. He said his first-team goalkeeper was injured and he needed cover for his teenage number two. I thanked him

and said 'I'll be there'."

Smith said: "I don't know about all that other stuff, it's all a bit of a mystery to me, but I know what Bruce Grobbelaar means as a footballer."

"Believe me, for any football manager Bruce Grobbelaar is good news."

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Family, friends bury Henri Paul in simple ceremony at Lorient chapel

15 Ritz colleagues attend, not representing the Fayeds

LORIENT (R) — Relatives and friends buried Henri Paul, the driver of the car in which Princess Diana died three weeks ago, in a simple ceremony in his home town of Lorient in western France on Saturday.

Although a bus brought in former colleagues from the Ritz hotel in Paris, there was no sign of a representative from the management of the hotel, where Paul worked for 12 years until the accident which killed Diana and her companion, Dodi Fayed.

The family of Dodi's father, Mohammad Fayed, who owns the luxurious Parisian hotel and Harrods department store in London, had no plans to be represented at the funeral, a spokesman said.

About 15 of Paul's former Ritz colleagues — porters, chambermaids and security guards — brought two large bouquets of purple and white flowers which were placed on the steps of the Sainte-Therese Roman Catholic Church.

"He was a super bloke," said porter Rodjan Roman. Resentment was running high among townspeople over the way in which Paul had been portrayed by the media after police said he was legally drunk and driving at high speed.

Police were out in force, and there were no incidents apart from a few insults shouted to reporters from an apartment block overlooking the cemetery.

"You are responsible for his death," a woman shouted.

Hundreds of media repre-



Family and friends of Henri Paul, the driver of the car in which Princess Diana died three weeks ago, attend the funeral service at the Roman Catholic church of Saint-Therese Keryado, Sunday. Standing up from left are Henri Paul's father, his mother and two sisters of his mother. Behind them are Paul's brothers and the wife of one of them. Far right are four employees of the Ritz hotel (Reuters photo)

sentatives and townsfolk clustered behind police barriers in the sunny residential close around the church as bells tolled mournfully and about 200 people filed in for the funeral.

A few mourners used the flowers they were carrying to shield their faces from the cameras.

Later, Paul's family stood silently in the shade of pine trees at Keryado cemetery as the plain wooden coffin was lowered into the concrete family tomb.

A girl wept as she unclasped a small brooch she was wearing and threw it into the grave, in a line of grey granite funerary ste-

lae. Three boys dropped poems and drawings.

The funeral of Paul, 41, deputy head of security at the Ritz, was held up by a criminal inquiry into the crash. Blood tests showed he was three times over the legal drink drive limit and had taken two calming drugs.

Paul's parents, besieged by the media since the accident and appalled by reports that their son had been drinking, were nonetheless determined to honour him with a public funeral.

The message with a huge red and pink wreath on the church steps said: "Your

family will not be deceived."

"He has already been declared guilty and we don't know all the facts," said a man who gave his first name as Alain and said he had served with Paul during military service at Rochefort airbase in western France.

The priest, Leon Theraud, quoted Diana's mother as telling a Scottish newspaper: "My heart suffers for Henri Paul's family. I believe that of the three families affected, it suffers most."

In his homily, he described Paul as a warm and generous man.

"Jesus denounces all judgements, rumours and lies that we apply to others without checking, without taking into account the complexity of the facts," he said, his words broadcast outside the church.

"Producers and agents of the media, or readers and consumers, we must all reflect on this... are we really looking for the truth alone?"

Paul's parents accompanied the coffin into the church. His frail father, apparently suffering from poor eyesight, had to be led to his place. His mother stood resolute and calm for most of the hour-long ceremony, only sitting once briefly in her grief.

Friends also invoked the memory of Diana and Dodi Fayed, and made reference to bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the crash. Christian Pitou told the congregation the ceremony should convey sympathy to their families.

Paul, bespectacled and balding, lived alone in Paris. His body was buried, rather than cremated, in case more tests were needed for the investigation.

After his military service, which he ended as a reserve officer, Paul worked as a yacht salesman before joining the Ritz. A private aircraft pilot, he had passed an annual medical test days before his death. The only reservation on the certificate was that he had to use glasses for long-distance vision.

Hackers intercept Clinton's pager traffic, post it on web

PALO ALTO (R) — A purported transcript of dozens of intercepted pager messages sent to President Bill Clinton's secret service detail was posted on the Internet Friday by a computer hacker.

The messages — included minute-by-minute updates about the president's whereabouts as well as instructions to agents to call the White House switchboard, love notes, basketball scores and notification that Chelsea Clinton was on hold for her father.

According to time stamps, the messages were intercepted on April 27, a day on which the president was visiting Philadelphia for an awards ceremony.

The White House said it knew its pager messages had been monitored but declined to say whether the transcript was genuine.

Pamela Finkel, a New York-based computer consultant, published the messages on her web site (<http://www.inch.com/secret/pamsgs.htm>) Friday to show how easy it was to intercept private communications, she said.

She also said she wanted lawmakers to reconsider proposed legislation that would make it illegal for private citizens to protect themselves from electronic eavesdropping by using so-called strong encryption technology.

"I don't know if I'm going to win converts in Congress, but if I make them stop to think, this would be worth it," Ms. Finkel said in an interview. "The information is more embarrassing than dangerous."

Ms. Finkel is also a member of the staff of 2600, a quarterly hacker newsletter. She said the transcript was handed to her on a floppy disk a few months ago by an unidentified young male hacker who wanted it printed anonymously.

"The White House is aware that somebody has monitored paging traffic," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said

Friday. "Our paging system is not secure, so we'd know not to send unsecured messages."

Secret service officials in Washington could not immediately be reached for comment.

The alleged interception highlights a debate between technology companies and law enforcement agencies over whether citizens should be able to use unbreakable codes in everything from electronic mail to conversations over cellular phones.

While companies like Microsoft Corp. say strong encryption is necessary for electronic commerce on the Internet, law agencies argue that encryption would allow drug smugglers and political extremists to communicate among themselves without fear of police eavesdropping.

Two weeks ago, a House of Representatives Committee on National Security revamped a bill that would have let software companies export technology that contains strong encryption techniques.

The House is also considering curbing the use of encryption technology domestically.

Encryption experts said the alleged interception illustrated why encryption was necessary.

"What an example the secret service are victims themselves," said Jim Bidzos, chief executive of RSA Data Security Inc., a software company that sells encryption products. "This is the most sensitive communication of the secret service. What better argument could there be?"

Ms. Finkel said it was relatively easy to intercept almost any pager message. All it takes is a high-end radio scanner, a personal computer and hacking software readily found on the Internet, she said. The transcript includes messages like: "If you don't come back with food... don't come back... airborne." "Call your mother." "Minor hostage situation in Texas, not much known now" and "Sir, Bulls 109, Bulls 104, Bulls 55 points."

Animal lovers save cats from cooking pots

LIMA (R) — A last-minute appeal from Peruvian animal-lovers persuaded authorities on Friday to cancel a festival of cat cooking intended to celebrate a local saint's day. Organisers announced with regret that the "Great Gastronomic Kitty Festival" scheduled for Saturday in the southern coastal town of Canete, had been cancelled at the insistence of animal rights groups. "We have saved the cats' lives," said the groups.

Sinead O'Connor asks Pope to forgive her

ROME (AFP) — The Irish singer Sinead O'Connor, who once ripped up a photo of Pope John Paul II during a live television broadcast, has asked the Pope to forgive her. "Dear Holy Father, forgive me," the singer said in an interview with the weekly *Vita*, in which she explained that tearing up the photo of the Pope had been "a ridiculous act, the gesture of a girl rebel. I did it because I was in rebellion against the faith, but I was still within the faith," she said.

Sioux chief's remains to go home after 105 years

LONDON (R) — A Sioux chief buried 105 years ago in a London cemetery is finally going home to the land of his ancestors where he is said to have fought General Custer at the battle of Little Big Horn. "Medicine men and holy men say that the spirit doesn't rest until the body is brought home," Chief Long Wolf's great grandson, Buffalo rancher John Black Feather, said in a statement Friday. His remains, and those of Star, the 17-month-old daughter of Ghost Dog who was buried in the same grave, are to be exhumed next week, wrapped in buffalo hide and returned to the Pine Ridge reservation in Wounded Knee, in the U.S. state of South Dakota. They were both performers in Colonel "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West Show when they died in 1892. Star fell from a horse, Long Wolf died of pneumonia.

'Wooden policemen' crack down on speeding

ROME (R) — The mayor of a northern Italian town said on Friday he had found a novel way to crack down on speeding — setting up wooden policemen by the roadside. "It's the first impact that counts — when people see a uniform, they brake," Gianluca Buonanno, mayor of Serravalle near the northeastern city of Turin, told reporters. "Obviously they won't stay up in the same places for too long, we'll alternate them with real policemen."

Goethe Foundation snubs 'gay' biography

BONN (R) — Bookshops at museums across Germany are refusing to sell a controversial new biography of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe which contends that the nationally revered poet was gay. The book's author said on Friday. The book, entitled "The Tender Care of the Tiger," which asserts that Goethe, who lived from 1749 to 1832, was a practicing homosexual, has shocked waves through Goethe academia and sparked a row among literary scholars. Author Karl Hugo Prijs, 59, a writer and journalist who is best-known for his acclaimed 1995 biography of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said the Weimar Classics Foundation had initially agreed to sell the book but got cold feet at the last minute.

Egypt says tourist bombing suspects acted alone

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt insisted Saturday that the two brothers arrested for the firebombing of a tourist bus which killed 10 people acted alone and said holiday-makers are still flocking to Cairo despite the attack.

"The two (brothers) did not have any accomplices. Reports that other suspects fled aboard a waiting car are untrue," Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi said in remarks published by the government newspaper *Al-Ahram*.

"Such an incident can take place in any country," Mr. Alfi said, echoing several government officials seeking to discredit reports that Thursday's attack outside the Egyptian Museum was linked to Islamic extremists.

Nine German holiday-makers and their Egyptian driver were killed and several other people injured when their tourist bus was attacked with petrol bombs outside the Egyptian Museum, home to some of the country's greatest treasures.

Egyptian authorities say the attack was carried out by a "madman" and his brother and ruled out any link to Muslim fundamentalist militants who launched in 1992 a violent anti-government campaign, which has claimed more than 1,200 lives including 39 tourists.

Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif Thursday said "the deplorable crime was an accident not a terrorist crime" while Tourism Minister Mamduh Beltagui described it as an "isolated" incident.

However, in Bonn, the Foreign Ministry said the German government was sending to Egypt a mission headed by a low-level minister and including anti-terrorist forces to clarify the circumstances of the attack.

"The German government cannot be satisfied with the explanation of the Egyptian government that the attack was carried out by a mad-

man," it said. The German ministry demanded "the identification of possible ringleaders" of the attack.

Saber Abu Al Ula, 32, who has two bullet wounds from a shoot-out with police after the attack, and his brother Mahmoud, were both arrested by police, while initial reports said at least three people were involved.

Egyptian authorities described Saber as a "mentally deranged man" who had escaped from a psychiatric hospital where he had been confined since killing four tourists in 1993.

But one of his sisters told Al-Ahram that her brother regularly left the Khanka Hospital in northeastern Cairo to visit home.

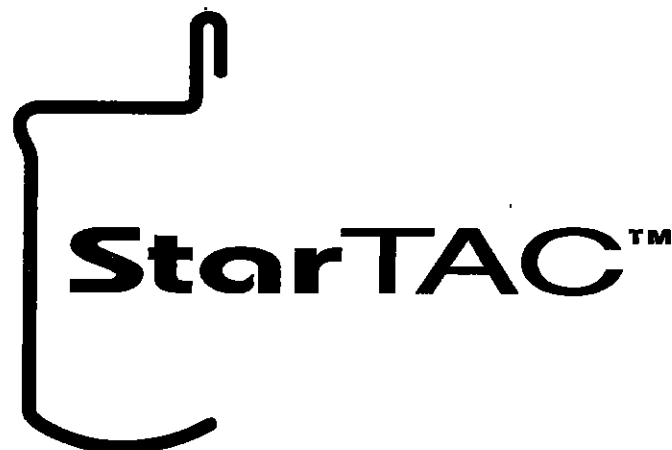
"He used to come home when he'd leave the hospital and demand money from our brother to use as bribes to pay off hospital guards," the sister said.

"When his visits became more frequent my sister's husband informed the security services that he was bribing his way out of hospital and asked for their help," she said.

The newly-appointed director of the Khanka Hospital, whose predecessor was sacked hours after the attack, said he will cancel leave granted to patients, Al-Ahram government newspaper reported.

Egypt is desperate to safeguard the country's vital tourism industry, but on Friday British travel agents announced they were halting trips to Cairo and in Germany a major travel agency offered to give people their money back for cancelled holidays to Egypt.

But Egypt's official media struck back with a series of press and television reports saying the number of tourist arrivals to Egypt was as strong as ever.



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